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Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Second session
(28 January-8 February 2002)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 55/199, the General Assembly decided to convene the Commission on Sustainable Development to act as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

2. At its second session, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee undertook the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), as well as of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, on the basis of the results of national assessments and subregional, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the task managers and other inputs from other relevant international organizations, as well as on the basis of the contributions of major groups.

3. Taking into account the above, the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee prepared a draft document (A/CONF.199/PC/L.1) for further consideration and negotiations by the preparatory committee at its third session (see chap. V, decision 2002/PC/2).

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit held its second session from 28 January to 8 February 2002, as recommended in its decision 2001/PC/1. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee held 15 meetings (1st to 15th) and a number of informal meetings.

5. At the 1st meeting, on 28 January, the Chairman of the Commission, Emil Salim (Indonesia), opened the session and made an opening statement.

6. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and Secretary-General of the Summit made an introductory statement.

7. Also at the same meeting, presentations were made by the following representatives: Germany, on the results of the International Conference on Freshwater, held in Bonn from 3 to 7 December 2001; Iceland, on the results of the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, held in Reykjavik from 1 to 4 October 2001; Iceland, on the results of the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, held in Montreal from 26 to 30 November 2001; Canada, on the results of the International Pollution Prevention Summit, held in Montreal from 18 to 20 October 2000; the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on the results of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Geneva from 1 to 12 October 2001; the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Marrakesh from 29 October to 10 November 2001; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on the results of a global conference on oceans and coasts, held in Paris from 3 to 7 December 2001, and the results of the Extraordinary Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, held in Paris on 10 and 11 December 2001; and Austria, on the results of the second meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, held in Laxenburg, Austria, from 28 to 30 November 2001, and the results of an environmental workshop on transport and energy organized by the Central European Initiative, held in Vienna on 15 and 16 November 2001.

8. At the same meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) made a statement.

9. At the 2nd meeting, on 28 January, statements were made by the Chair of the Regional Preparatory Committee for Europe, the Chair of the African Preparatory Conference, the Bureau Chair for the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Committee Meeting, the Chair of the West Asia/Arab Regional Preparatory Committee, the Chair of the Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, and

the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations.

10. At the 3rd meeting, on 29 January, statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); the Executive Director of UNEP; the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification; the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility; the Vice-President of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank; and the Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

11. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Summit made a concluding statement.

12. At the 6th to 9th meetings, on 31 January and 1 February, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee held a general debate. At the 6th meeting, on 31 January, statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Ghana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Japan, Costa Rica (on behalf of the Rio Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group), India, Mexico, Turkey, Australia, Argentina and Chile.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Environment Directorate, WMO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD.

14. At the 7th meeting, on 31 January, the Commission continued its general debate. Statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Belarus, Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Finland (on behalf of the Arctic Council), Grenada (on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)), Lithuania, Kenya, Colombia, the United States of America, Norway, Thailand, the Russian Federation, Algeria and South Africa.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

16. At the 8th meeting, on 1 February, the President of the United Nations Foundation addressed the Commission.

17. At the same meeting, the Commission continued its general debate. Statements were made by the representatives of Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Brazil, Saint Lucia, Botswana, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Malaysia, Bhutan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, China, Israel, Fiji and Cyprus.

18. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as well as the observer for the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

19. At the 9th meeting, on 1 February, the Commission continued and concluded its general debate. Statements were made by the representatives of Croatia, Nigeria, Peru, Mozambique, Belize, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Moldova, Nepal, Honduras, Suriname, Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Burundi, Poland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Japan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius.

20. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations University, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Trade Organization (WTO), UNESCO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

21. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), speaking on behalf of the regional commissions.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the European Space Agency (ESA), the Consultative Group for International

Agriculture Research (CGIAR) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), intergovernmental organizations accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

23. At the 10th meeting, on 4 February, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Summit addressed the Commission.

24. At the 12th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission held a special panel discussion on the theme "The Media and sustainable development". The interim head of the Department of Public Information acted as Moderator. Statements were made by the following panellists: Snuki Zikalala, Executive Editor of News, South African Broadcasting Corporation, South Africa; Barbara Pyle, former Vice-President for Environmental Programming, Turner Broadcasting, United States of America; Tim Hirsch, Senior Environmental Correspondent, British Broadcasting Corporation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Jim Laurie, Vice-President, News and Current Affairs, Star Television, China; and Simone Duarte, New York Bureau Chief, Globo Television, Brazil. The interim head also made an oral report on the communications activities of the Department of Public Information for the Summit.

25. At the 13th meeting, on 7 February, the representatives of Indonesia and South Africa made presentations on the state of preparations for the fourth session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and the Summit, respectively.

B. Agenda and organization of work

26. At its 1st meeting, on 28 January, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.17/2001/PC.2/1 and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

3. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its second session.

27. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee approved the requests for accreditation of ESA, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Nordic Council of Ministers, CGIAR, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS), as intergovernmental organizations, to participate in the preparatory process and the Summit with the status of observers.

28. At its 14th meeting, on 8 February, the Commission acting as preparatory committee considered the request for accreditation of the International Campaign for Tibet, a non-governmental organization recommended for accreditation by the Secretariat (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/16).

29. At the same meeting, the representative of China made a statement opposing the request for accreditation, and the representatives of the United States of America and Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, as well as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Malta, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) made statements supporting the request for accreditation.

30. At the same meeting, the representative of China called for a no action motion regarding the accreditation of the non-governmental organization. Bearing in mind rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the representatives of Pakistan and Cuba made statements in favour of the no action motion; and the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the European Union, as well as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Malta, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and the United States of America, made statements against the no action motion.

31. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, carried the no action motion by a recorded vote of 93 to 44, with 16 abstentions.

The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Abstentions:

Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guatemala, Holy See, India, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Swaziland and Uruguay.

C. Attendance

32. In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 55/199, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee was open-ended to allow the full participation of all States.

33. The following States were represented: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United

States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

34. The European Community was represented.

35. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Economic Commission for Africa; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ESCAP; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Regional Commissions New York Office; UNDP; UNEP; United Nations Children's Fund; UNFPA; World Food Programme, United Nations University; UNAIDS, United Nations Volunteers and Global Environment Facility.

36. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization; FAO; UNESCO; WHO; the World Bank; IMF; the World Intellectual Property Organization; WMO; IFAD; IMO; UNIDO; WTO and the International Atomic Energy Agency. were also represented.

37. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee; CARICOM; CEC; CGIAR; Convention on Wetlands; Commonwealth Secretariat; ESA; IFCS; IEA; International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; International Organization of la Francophonie; IUCN; Organization of African Unity; Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference; Nordic Council of Ministers; North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation; Organization of the Islamic Conference; South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; and the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

38. The observers for the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, entities, having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintain permanent offices at Headquarters, attended the session.

39. The observers for the secretariats of the Conventions to Combat Desertification, on Climate Change and on Biological Diversity attended the session.

40. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the session.

D. Documentation

41. The list of documents before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session is contained in the annex.

Chapter III
Comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

42. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development considered agenda item 2 at its 1st to 3rd, 6th to 10th, 12th and 13th meetings, on 28, 29 and 31 January, and on 1, 4, 6 and 7 February 2002 (for the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 5-25).

Action taken by the preparatory committee

Chairman's summary of discussions

43. At its 15th meeting, on 8 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to include in its report on its second session the Chairman's summary of discussions (see chap. V, decision 2002/PC/1, and annex I).

Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder's dialogue segment

44. At its 15th meeting, on 8 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to include in its report on its second session the Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholders dialogue segment in the report (see chap. V, decision 2002/PC/1, and annex II).

Proposals for partnerships/initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21

45. At its 15th meeting, on 8 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to include in its report on its second session the proposals for partnerships/initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21 (see chap. V, decision 2002/PC/1, and annex III).

Chairman's paper

46. At its 15th meeting, on 8 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to transmit the Chairman's paper at its third session for further consideration (see chap. V, decision 2002/PC/2, and A/CONF.199/PC/L.1).

Chapter IV
Adoption of the report

47. At its 15th meeting, on 8 February, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it the draft report on its second session (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/L.1).

48. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report.

Chapter V
Decisions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

49. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the following decisions:

Decision 2002/PC/1

At its 15th meeting, on 8 February 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development decided to include in its report on its second session the Chairman's summary of discussions;[1] the Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder's dialogue segment;[2] and the proposals for partnerships/initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21.[3]

Decision 2002/PC/2

At its 15th meeting, on 8 February 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development decided to transmit the Chairman's paper to its third session for further consideration.[4]

[1] See annex I.

[2] See annex II.

[3] See annex III.

[4] See A/CONF.199/PC/L.1.

Annex I

Chairman's summary of discussions on the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

A. General

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development commenced its second preparatory session on 28 January 2002. Delegates and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, major groups and observers heard opening statements by the Chairman and by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Secretary-General of the Summit. At its opening meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the agenda and considered other organizational matters. It also approved the applications for accreditation of a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The application of one non-governmental organization could not be approved and was deferred pending further consultation among delegations.

2. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee began consideration of the main item of work on its agenda, the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. In considering the item, the Commission had before it:

(a) Results of national assessments;

(b) Results of subregional and regional preparatory meetings;

(c) Progress reports or results of intergovernmental processes relevant to the Summit;

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21 and other background information from the Secretariat;

(e) Background documents and other information and inputs from relevant international organizations, specialized agencies, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility;

(f) Contributions of major groups, the summary of which is reflected below.

B. Intergovernmental meetings and processes

3. The Commission heard reports on a number of intergovernmental meetings and processes.

4. The representative of Germany presented the results of the International Conference on Freshwater (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/10), held in Bonn from 3 to 7 December 2001, and highlighted Conference recommendations directed to the Summit. Representatives of Iceland introduced a report on the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/3), held from 1 to 4 October 2001, and a report on the results of an intergovernmental review meeting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15), organized by UNEP in Montreal from 26 to 30 November 2001. The representative of Canada introduced the report of the International Pollution Prevention Summit (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/2), which was held in Montreal, from 18 to 20 October 2001, and elaborated on substantive outcomes, including the creation of a global information network and action plans.

5. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, introduced the report of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/11), held from 2 to 13

October 2001 in Geneva, which contains conclusions and recommendations on future steps in the implementation of the Convention and a political statement addressing the poverty and environment nexus. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change introduced the Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, issued at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/4), held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 October to 9 November 2001.

6. UNESCO introduced a resolution adopted in December 2001 by the Executive Council of its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/Misc.1). The resolution outlines IOC commitments to the Summit and IOC efforts to raise awareness of the importance of oceans. The Executive Secretary of IOC discussed the deliberations and outcomes of the Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts, held in Paris, from 3 to 7 December 2001.

7. The Executive Director of UNEP presented a progress report on international environmental governance, noting that five meetings had been held, concluding on 12 February 2002 in Cartagena, Colombia. He described UNEP inputs to the Summit and noted that the decision on international environmental governance to be taken by the UNEP Governing Council at its seventh session, to be held in Cartagena from 13 to 15 February 2002, would be reported to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its third session.

8. The representative of Austria presented reports of the first and second Global Forums on Sustainable Energy (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/14). The first Forum was held in December 2000 and addressed issues pertinent to energy for sustainable development; the second, held in October 2001, addressed energy technologies for rural development.

C. Reports of regional preparatory committees

9. The Commission heard reports on the outcomes of the various regional preparatory meetings held during the course of 2001.

1. Europe and North America

10. The Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, representing the Chair of the European regional preparatory committee meeting held in Geneva on 24 and 25 September 2001, reported on its outcome. The ministers of the ECE region urged the Summit to promote a better integration between policies for poverty eradication, environmental protection and economic development. The ministers committed themselves to seek enhanced cooperation and solidarity with developing countries, based on mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development. They recognized that efforts to generate resources through domestic means and private financial flows must be supplemented by debt relief and official development assistance. They expect the International Conference on Financing for Development to produce clear strategies and actions in that direction.

11. To make globalization work for sustainable development, the ECE region is determined to integrate the poorest countries into the global economy by removing trade distortions, giving duty-free and quota-free market access and encouraging investments in the least developed countries.

12. They suggested that the Summit launch a specific mechanism to carry forward the shared objectives for sustainable development in a spirit of global partnership. Many ECE countries expressed a wish to seek to achieve a "global deal on sustainable development" at the Summit to ensure a new balance between global economic, social and environmental development.

2. Africa

13. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, who chaired the African regional preparatory committee meeting held in Nairobi from 15 to 18 October 2001, reported on its outcome. The African ministers emphasized that the lack of implementation of Agenda 21 was further compounded by globalization, which had increased the poverty incidence in the region. Eight main areas of concern were highlighted: obstacles to exports from developing countries to developed countries; energy at affordable prices; the promotion of microfinance; access to better health services and the problem of HIV/AIDS; sustainable rural and agricultural development,

including food security; access to safe water and sanitation; vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental risks; and improved access to education. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the major limiting factor for the effective implementation of Agenda 21 has been the lack of necessary means of implementation, particularly an inadequate flow of finances. The region is also calling for an appropriate evaluation of debt relief measures, taking into account the special needs of the continent.

3. West Asia

14. The report of the West Asia/Arab regional preparatory committee meeting, held in Cairo on 24 and 25 October 2001, as well as related meetings, was introduced by the Minister of Tourism and Environment of Yemen, who had chaired the meeting. It was noted that Arab countries remain committed to work to achieve sustainable development goals within the framework of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Achievements made by Arab countries towards achieving sustainable development were noted in the areas of health and education and by increases in per capita income, improved urban services, reduced illiteracy rates, increased participation by women in education and employment, reduction in the population growth rate, increased life expectancy, strengthening environment and development institutions, better legislation, capacity-building and increased participation in implementation of conventions and agreements, and better cooperation at the regional level.

15. However, challenges exist for further progress towards achieving sustainable development in the region. They include escalating poverty and, despite recent improvements, high population growth rates and migration to urban areas. There is a need for integrated policies with regard to economic reform, improving general and vocational education, creation of jobs, conservation of natural resources, enhancement of social security, solutions to the debt burden faced by many countries of the region and strengthening the role of the private sector.

16. The Arab ministers stressed the need for developed countries to increase ODA to 0.7 per cent of GNP, augment funds available to GEF and encourage foreign direct investment in support of sustainable development.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

17. The Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations introduced the results of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional preparatory committee meeting held in Rio de Janeiro on 23 and 24 October 2001, on behalf of its Chair.

18. The main outcome of the Conference was a document entitled "Rio de Janeiro platform of action on the road to Johannesburg 2002", which reaffirms the principles and objectives set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. The platform highlights, among others, (a) the need to lay the foundations for a new ethic that will serve as the cornerstone of sustainable development; (b) the need for greater integration of social, economic and environmental policies; (c) the importance of strengthening institutions at all levels through exchange of experience, best practices and knowledge; (d) the importance of meeting the targets for ODA and securing additional resources through greater private sector involvement and enhancement of GEF; (e) the need to ensure market access for developing countries' products; (f) the importance of ensuring that the diffusion of scientific knowledge, the promotion of research and the development of clean technologies serve the needs of sustainable development, particularly in developing countries; (g) the design of a strategy for the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems; (h) the definition of a core set of data and indicators, including a vulnerability index; and (i) the need to diversify energy supply and foster energy efficiency.

5. Asia and the Pacific

19. A representative of the Minister of Environment of Cambodia, who chaired the Asia and Pacific regional preparatory committee meeting, presented the key outcomes of the high-level meeting held in Phnom Penh, from 27 to 29 November 2001.

20. The main outcome of the meeting was the Phnom Penh regional platform on sustainable development for Asia and the Pacific, which includes key issues and priorities for sustainable development in the region, many of which are multisectoral and cross-cutting, embracing environmental, economic and social spheres. The platform also reflected the results of regional round-table and subregional meetings.

21. The platform stressed the importance of countries in the region strengthening their economies, reforming their public sectors and enhancing good governance, including education and health-care systems; the decentralization of power; and indicator systems and targets for monitoring sustainable development. At the regional/subregional levels, the platform recognized the importance of ESCAP in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of Agenda 21. Among implementation mechanisms at the global level, the platform stressed the fulfilment of global commitments made at UNCED; better utilization of multilateral environmental agreements; improved efforts towards reaching ODA targets; enhanced capacity for effective debt management; good governance at the international level; and elimination of trade barriers in order to improve market access for developing countries.

6. Small Island Developing States

22. The Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, on behalf of the small island developing States, reported on the meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and on the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings as they related to small island developing States, capacity-building needs, the role of civil society, adaptations to climate change and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

23. The isolation and vulnerability of small island developing States were emphasized in a number of presentations on the results of regional preparatory meetings. Key issues mentioned included remoteness, geographical dispersion, natural disasters, climate change, ecological fragility, exposure to economic shocks, small internal markets and limited resources endowments.

24. Some regional platforms reaffirmed the Barbados Declaration adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994 and the subregional conventions and agreements which followed UNCED. They also called for a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in 2004.

D. Reports of agency heads

25. The Commission heard from the heads of United Nations agencies and organizations regarding their assessments of the challenges facing the Summit and possible contributions that their respective organizations could make to the Summit and the achievement of sustainable development.

26. The Executive Director of Habitat reported that the main challenge for Habitat at the Summit is the promotion of sustainable urbanization. Better articulation of an integrated and coordinated strategy to advance the Habitat Agenda will be an important contribution to the Summit process. To that end, Habitat proposes a two-pronged approach: the need to articulate effective strategies for preventive measures to support sustainable urbanization, and the need to adopt effective adaptive strategies, programmes, policies and concrete projects to deal with reality in the cities.

27. Habitat's contribution to the Summit is based on a partnership approach that will allow for a unified and coordinated input. Current key partners with whom Habitat is jointly preparing for the Summit include local authorities, the World Bank, UNITAR, UNEP and WHO. A series of meetings are also scheduled in preparation for the Summit, and a coordinated thematic cluster on the Habitat Agenda will be worked out during the preparations.

28. The Administrator of UNDP emphasized that the challenge for the Summit is to provide a results-oriented focus to sustainable development. In the last 10 years, UNDP, particularly through its capacity 21 programme, has concentrated on cross-cutting issues of capacity development in terms of institution-building and human development at the country level. The main disappointment with capacity 21 programme has been the lack of sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of developing countries. A much stronger mandate and additional financial resources would be needed to further capacity-building efforts. No single agency can promote capacity-building alone. Although UNDP was tasked with chapter 37 of Agenda 21, it has always worked in close partnership with others. UNDP promoted integrative programmes and an advocacy approach in such areas as sustainable energy development for the poor. The Administrator saw a clear need to obtain public support for United Nations Millennium Declaration goals, including eradicating

poverty by 2015, as well as the financing for development process, which aims for changes in international financial architecture, something essential to the Summit. UNDP will continue to pursue integrative approaches in partnerships with other concerned agencies and organizations as well as civil society.

29. The Secretary-General of WMO indicated that the main challenges for the Summit are issues related to climate change and the protection of the Earth's life-support systems. To ensure protection of life-support systems, including the atmosphere, efforts must be increased to control pollution and monitor the accumulation of greenhouse gases, sea-level rise, degradation of coastal areas, adverse effects of pollution on small island developing States, the weather and the hydrological cycle. Referring to the Millennium Declaration goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015, he noted that the state of the oceans, availability of freshwater, demands of a growing world population, food production, soil erosion and desertification all have serious ramifications for poverty. He stressed the importance of the role of science and technology in understanding the impact of climate change on sustainable development and the need for effective policies. The Secretary-General stressed that today's path of development is not sustainable, and pointed to the need for a new paradigm of scientific investigation that links science and technology to its impact on society and that recognizes multidimensional interactions and impacts on human. He indicated that WMO would work on promoting that new approach in its overall efforts to promote sustainable development as well as continue its role of providing advice to countries.

30. As part of its contribution to the Summit, WMO will strive to enhance monitoring capacity for observations of weather and climate, meteorological and related services, natural disasters, ozone levels, sea-level rise and assessments of climate change. Critical means to reduce poverty by half and achieve sustainable development include clean water and sanitation facilities. WMO monitoring and assessment activities will help ensure that impoverished people receive those essential services.

31. The Executive Director of UNEP outlined four criteria for a successful Summit: concrete action; partnerships, especially with civil society; responsive prosperity to overcome poverty and change consumption patterns; and integration. He emphasized the Millennium Declaration as a basis for further work and partnerships. UNEP contributions to those efforts would include (a) assessments, early warning and monitoring, with examples being the millennium ecosystem assessment and the global water assessment; (b) capacity-building, through, for example, the coordinating centres established for the *Global Environmental Outlook*; (c) technology and technology transfer, through promoting cleaner production and water-related technology; (d) health and the environment; (e) environment and food security, including links to genetically modified organisms and biotechnology; (f) globalization and trade; (g) diversity (not just biodiversity but also diverse cultural and spiritual values are a prerequisite for the globalization agenda); (h) urbanization, working closely with Habitat; (i) energy (both the demand side (e.g., cleaner technology) and the supply side (e.g., a global network of renewable energy centres)); (j) implementation and the need to ensure agency interaction with civil society and private business.

32. The Vice-President of IFAD identified the main challenge for the Summit as restoring priority to and reinvigorating rural poverty reduction. He noted that the Summit could achieve this by calling for new investments that empower the rural poor to take the lead in overcoming poverty. In particular, the outcomes of the Summit could help push forward (a) building the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations and promoting their access to productive natural resources, technology, financial resources and markets; (b) overcoming gender disparities; (c) fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels; (d) strengthening institutions created under international environmental and environmental conventions; (e) addressing the need for a more effective framework for the dissemination of the lessons learned.

33. The Vice-President identified two significant contributions of IFAD to the Summit: (a) direct investments in sustainable agriculture and rural development, taking into account IFAD's unique comparative advantage in terms of working in partnership with the rural poor in developing solutions to environmental and poverty issues and its capacity for mobilizing resources; and (b) serving as a catalyst for broader progress beyond the scope of IFAD projects and programmes, through the effective dissemination of its knowledge and lessons learned to other

development partners; advocacy on issues critical to the rural poor; support for capacity-building of rural poor organizations to advocate on their behalf; and continuing vibrant partnerships with civil society, Governments and intergovernmental institutions.

34. The Executive Director of UNFPA emphasized that the primary challenges of Agenda 21 still remain: to ensure that access to resources for human development is in balance with human numbers; to end extreme poverty; and to advance equality between men and women. Four major areas of concern to UNFPA are: safe drinking water, poverty eradication, gender equality and empowerment of women. It was emphasized that population growth today, though a matter for the poorest countries, affects the world and thereby requires a global response. It was also stressed that there is a broad international consensus on the links between ending poverty, promoting reproductive health, securing gender equality and protecting the environment, and that the world community should continue to consolidate the gains already obtained in those areas. Finally, the Executive Director concluded that the UNFPA contribution to the Summit would be in sharing the experience of the organization in helping countries to incorporate population into development policies.

35. The Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification stressed that the main challenges for the Summit are poverty eradication, ensuring food security and promoting sustainable development in dry lands.

36. He noted that progress under the Convention, which was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996, has been slowed by a lack of sufficient funding for its implementation. Unlike the other UNCED conventions, the desertification agreement has lacked a predictable multilateral funding mechanism. However, a recent development in the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) suggests that degradation of land (deforestation and desertification) would be added as one of the focal areas of GEF. A final decision in that regard is expected during the GEF Assembly to be held in October 2002. However, the Executive Secretary stressed that the Summit is an opportunity to launch the implementation of the Convention and to address, both adequately and in a timely manner, the issues of financial support and capacity-building.

37. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasized that biological diversity underpins sustainable development in many areas, including those of food security, climate stability, water filtration, soil conservation and human health. Despite many successes in the implementation of the Convention, biodiversity continues to be lost at an alarming rate due to ever-expanding human demands and economic activities and the failure to shift from exploitation to sustainable management.

38. One of the main challenges of the Summit from the perspective of the Convention is to send a clear political signal that the achievement of the objectives of the Convention is a prerequisite for sustainable development. There is a need for a renewed commitment to the Convention as an effective global mechanism that can consolidate and strengthen efforts being undertaken through regional and international biodiversity-related agreements and programmes.

39. The Conference of the Parties is to hold its sixth meeting in April 2002 and will prepare a message for the Summit. The main achievements of the Convention include (a) adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; (b) the development of the draft Bonn guidelines on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; (c) the development and progressive implementation of ecosystem approach in various programme areas; (d) the process on indigenous people and local communities; and (e) the promotion of inter-agency cooperation and synergies on a wide range of issues. The Convention has worked closely with the Global Environment Facility, which invested approximately $1.2 billion over the last nine years and leveraged another $2 billion.

40. The Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of GEF outlined the views of his organization regarding the challenges of the Summit and the lessons learned since UNCED. He stated that although Agenda 21 remains a valid blueprint for sustainable development future work should be refocused to concentrate on the thematic areas of energy, water and forests and on the cross-sectoral issues of capacity-building and financing.

41. One of the lessons learned since UNCED is that the GEF $15 billion portfolio is inadequate to meet the requirements of sustainable development, and must be increased and involve more partners in order to replicate successes. Since decisions at the ministerial

level are crucial to additional financing, GEF is organizing a series of ministerial round tables on finance issues prior to the Summit. Finally, he informed the delegates that for the third replenishment of GEF, additional resources are being allocated to two new programming areas: land degradation and persistent organic pollutants. Projects under the land degradation framework will support activities developed under the Convention to Combat Desertification.

42. The Vice-President of the World Bank noted that although globalization can make an important contribution to sustainable development the benefits of globalization have to be shared in a more equitable manner. Some current trends pose a challenge to achieving further progress towards sustainable development in the future, including the expected increase of food demand due to population growth and further degradation of forests, land and water resources, as well as increasing energy demand in developing countries. The World Bank reconfirmed its commitment to Africa, where sustainable development is threatened by the degradation of natural resources and HIV/AIDS in particular.

43. The World Bank, with poverty reduction as its main objective, is committed to the development targets of the Millennium Declaration. The World Bank adheres to the principle of national ownership of development strategies and a further strengthening of partnerships among Governments, donors and civil society. Together with its partners, the World Bank will further engage in the discussions on financing for development, support a substantial GEF replenishment, address the issue of debt reduction and give a high priority to trade issues.

E. Summary of the general debate

44. Countries reaffirmed their commitment to the outcomes achieved at the UNCED, particularly with regard to the continued validity and relevance of Agenda 21 and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Most delegations emphasized that the purpose of the Summit is not to renegotiate Agenda 21 but to reinvigorate political commitment to its full implementation. Various countries gave special attention to particular principles of the Declaration, such as the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the precautionary and polluter pays principles, among others. Attention was also given to recognizing that sustainable development needs to be achieved by all countries according to their respective capabilities. A great many countries welcomed the focus given in the Secretary-General's report to accelerating implementation of Agenda 21 through concrete actions and measures, given the gap in implementation that currently exists. They stressed that that would entail the provision of new and additional financial resources, transfer of technology, capacity-building and access to markets, which constitute particular areas of priority for developing countries.

45. A number of countries mentioned the idea of a "global deal" which could serve as the conceptual framework for the outcome of the Summit. Such a deal would be formulated as a package, balanced in terms of the interests of developed and developing countries and also balanced in reflecting the three pillars of sustainable development. The objective of the global deal would be the acceleration of the implementation of Agenda 21, advancing solutions to North/South issues and contributing to poverty eradication and to the achievement of sustainable production and consumption patterns. A number of countries wanted to have more information about the details of such a deal before making further comments on the idea.

46. Many countries felt that the 10 years since UNCED have brought increased awareness of global environmental issues, greater participation and involvement by members of civil society in most countries and substantial progress with respect to the various international legislative and legal instruments. The widespread acceptance of the concept of sustainable development in government, industry and civil society was itself seen as an achievement by some countries.

47. Unfortunately, the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 has been uneven and the commitments made by developed countries at UNCED have not been kept in the view of many developing countries. Given those circumstances, the economies of many developing countries, particularly in Africa, have deteriorated, resulting in an overwhelming increase in poverty and inequality, threats to human health, accelerated bio-diversity loss, increasing desertification, unsustainable use of natural resources and mounting vulnerability to natural disasters.

48. Many countries emphasized that peace, security and stability are prerequisites for sustainable development, and that the lack of peace and stability has seriously impeded the implementation of sustainable development at the national and regional levels in many countries and regions.

49. Much concern was expressed about globalization, which has accelerated considerably in the 10 years since UNCED. Its potential impact on sustainable development was noted, although many countries recognized that globalization can result in opportunities as well as challenges for sustainable development. When properly harnessed, globalization can generate and support sustainable development and its benefits can significantly assist in the pursuit of sustainable development. One delegate referred to the positive comments made by the Secretary-General, who, in an address to the World Economic Forum in New York on 4 February 2002, noted that globalization, so far from being the cause of poverty and other ills, offers the best hope of overcoming them.

50. Other countries were concerned, however, that globalization has resulted in the marginalization of developing countries and instability in the international economic and financial system. Many developing countries were acutely aware of the vulnerability of their national economies to the fluctuations in the global economy and their inability to share the benefits of globalization on an equal footing. As a consequence of the dynamics of globalization, many developing countries, especially in Africa, are being increasingly excluded from the world economy. Despite an unprecedented period of growing productivity and capital accumulation, the last decade has seen an extra 10 million people each year joining the ranks of the very poor.

51. Some countries stressed that along with increased volatility created by speculative short-term capital flows in the global financial markets and the increasing digital divide, globalization has put mounting pressure on the global environment. It has also increased the potential for clashes with traditional values and cultures.

52. Several countries felt that the majority of developing countries, in dealing with the invisible hand of the market, have found that benefits are almost as invisible. In opening up their national economies, many small island developing States, for example, have put at risk their indigenous businesses and industries by exposing them to excessive competition from much stronger and well financed multinational companies. They are losing or have lost their indigenous private sector and the employment and contribution it makes to national economic development.

53. A view was expressed that efforts by some developed countries to raise non-tariff barriers, including attempts at environmental protectionism and continued reliance on unproductive export subsidies, have emerged as some of the disquieting features of globalization. That has led to continuing adverse terms of trade for developing countries. Another country noted that rather than assisting in improving market access for agricultural commodities of developing countries, globalization has led to trade barriers and continuing poor commodity prices, thereby hurting agricultural production and discouraging national industrial development. It has also aggravated poverty and environmental degradation.

54. Many countries emphasized that the challenge for the international community is to ensure that globalization does not flourish at the expense of equity and development. Globalization needs to be made more inclusive, notably in terms of developing countries' participation and of the equitable sharing of its benefits in the global economy. The Doha Ministerial Declaration offers the opportunity for WTO to play a fuller role in terms of making globalization work for sustainable development across the world.

55. Some countries felt that the Summit should pave the way for finding effective solutions to the equitable sharing of benefits from globalization and overcoming its negative aspects for the sustained economic growth of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Several participants felt that there would be a need for some protection for the national economies of developing countries as those countries move towards trade liberalization.

56. It is the view of many countries that the conditions that promote sustainable development have not improved much during the last 10 years. Extreme poverty, environmental degradation, underdevelopment, unsustainable production and consumption patterns and unequal income distribution continue to exist. More than 1.1 billion people still live in absolute poverty, most of them in rural areas of developing countries, with women and marginalized people bearing most of

the burden. Almost half of the population in Africa and South Asia live in poverty.

57. Rural-urban migration also increased substantially during the 1990s, with a consequent increase in the numbers of people living in urban poverty in unsustainable human settlements. Such human settlements are mostly informal and unplanned, are often in dangerous locations and lack basic municipal services, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, public transport, schools and clinics. They are often the result of inadequate urban planning, lack of investment in infrastructure, speculative investment patterns and indifference to the needs of the poor. It was pointed out that world leaders in the Millennium Declaration agreed to achieve, by 2020, significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the "Cities without slums" initiative. Realization of that target would require action at many levels. It was noted that access to improved housing, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health and education would be urgent priorities for improving the lives of slum dwellers. Long-term improvements would require better city planning and attention to land rights and urban infrastructures.

58. It was noted that health conditions in many countries generally improved during the 1990s, with increasing average life expectancy and a decline in child mortality rates. Nevertheless, poor health continued to be a major constraint to development in many developing countries. Inadequate and contaminated water supplies, poor sanitation facilities, severe indoor air pollution from traditional fuels, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious and parasitic diseases, and lack of access to reproductive health services took a high toll in death and disease. Some countries noted that in Africa, the emergence of HIV/AIDS has devastated the young adult population, dramatically reducing life expectancy and creating enormous obstacles to economic and social development. At the same time, developed countries and some developing countries have seen increases in diseases associated with unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles and obesity.

59. A number of countries reported progress in increasing access to education, including at the secondary levels. Although developing countries as a whole have shown considerable improvement in net primary school enrolment over the past 10 years, it was noted that more than 113 million primary-school-age children in developing countries currently do not receive a basic school education. The number of children not enrolled in school has generally declined but the gender gap in primary and secondary education persists in many regions and girls remain disadvantaged. Progress has been slow in reducing disparities in the distribution of educational opportunity, as reflected by differences in education by income, gender, disability, ethnicity and urban versus rural location.

60. Various countries stressed that the role of education in sustainable development is of critical importance. Both education and awareness-raising, as well as creating a culture for sustainable development, were considered by most countries as important means of enabling the public and civil society to achieve sustainable development goals. It was emphasized that education plays a particular role in reinforcing the capacity of women and girls to contribute fully to society. Greater efforts are needed to advance both formal and informal education and awareness — beginning in early childhood, particularly for girls. Although local and national efforts to promote education for sustainable development need to be strengthened, they must be complemented by international cooperation.

61. Most countries agreed that the eradication of poverty, including income poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health, is central to the achievement of sustainable development and to the goals of the Summit. Progress in eradicating poverty, as measured by the millennium development goals, has been slow and will require concerted and coherent action by developed and developing countries and by civil society, government and business, acting in partnership. Overcoming poverty and creating sustainable livelihoods requires growing economies, which generate opportunities for the poor, including jobs. There is a need to empower the poor, in particular women, to enable them to influence the policies, processes and institutions shaping their lives. People in poverty also need access to services, particularly education and health, and such resources as land, water and sustainable energy.

62. Although the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased substantially over the past decade, the patterns of consumption and production in developed countries have remained essentially

unchanged, in the view of many. As noted by some, the improvements in efficiency that have taken place in developed countries have been more than offset by the increase in the volume of goods and services consumed and discarded.

63. Although domestic resources have at times been the primary source for financing sustainable development, they need to be complemented by income from trade and external financial sources, including FDI and ODA. Developing countries, in particular, stressed that the failure of the international community to meet the commitments made at UNCED with regard to trade, investment and finance and technology transfer has been a major limiting factor in the implementation of UNCED outcomes. It was reported that to date only five countries had actually met the United Nations target of providing 0.7 per cent of GNP for overseas development assistance. Policies in those areas have often not been coherent or consistent with respect to long-term human needs and sustainable development objectives. The heavy external debt burden and the decline of ODA have limited the capacity of many developing countries to attract investment and constrained their ability to implement policies for sustainable development. Although foreign direct investment increased rapidly in the 1990s, it was concentrated in a small number of countries.

64. Developing countries, particularly those dependent on commodity exports, report having suffered deteriorating terms of trade. Trade barriers and a lack of market access for developing countries hamper their full participation in the global market and thus their ability to achieve progress towards sustainable development.

65. The lack of implementation by the international community concerning the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the equitable sharing of benefits from technology, especially information, communication and other new technologies, was noted by many countries. They believe that the main lesson to be drawn is that markets do not by themselves ensure the diffusion of technological capacity, hence a supplementary means of guaranteeing that developing countries benefit from technical innovation is needed, including the provision of environmentally sound technology on concessional and preferential terms.

66. Several participants noted that hunger and food insecurity remain a continuing scourge, affecting an estimated 815 million people in the world. In recognition of the need to take immediate action to confront the problem, world leaders at the World Food Summit organized by FAO in 1996 agreed to a minimum target of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015. That goal was reiterated by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000. However, it was reported that recent trends show that progress to date in reaching that target is not on track and the goal is not likely to be reached. A five-year review conference will take place in Rome in June 2002 to identify ways to eliminate the constraints that are hindering the achievement of that goal.

67. It was noted that support for the concept of sustainable agriculture and rural development, has grown since 1992, as awareness of the need to address the problems of hunger, poverty and rural development with an integrated approach have become clear. The major objective of SARD is to increase food production in a sustainable way and enhance food security. The link with efforts to combat degradation of agricultural lands has also been strengthened through the elaboration of international agreements, such as the Convention to Combat Desertification and work by FAO, IFAD and other international and regional organizations.

68. Given that the majority of poor people live in rural areas and there is an urgent need to substantively increase food security for the growing world population, many countries called for urgent action to reverse the trend of declining human and financial resources for rural development and integrated land management. There is a need to develop new partnerships between Governments at all levels and stakeholders, including farmers, scientists, teachers, youth and NGOs, to combat land degradation and desertification. It was proposed that the Convention be recognized as a "sustainable development Convention", crucial to addressing broader sustainable development issues. Synergies between the Convention and the other UNCED conventions would be helpful in implementing them all.

69. It was noted that the share of development assistance directed to the agricultural sector has steadily declined. At the same time, it was estimated that resources required to end hunger are lower than the human and economic costs of not ending it,

including the cost of ill health, low labour productivity and lower economic growth.

70. Several speakers mentioned the adverse effects on agricultural production and food security resulting from barriers to agricultural trade, particularly for primary products, and supported the increased access to developed country markets for developing country exports. One country referred to the harmful effects on its food security caused by the growing of illicit crops.

71. A number of countries pointed out that the major ecosystems that support human sustenance, such as forests, freshwater systems, coastal marine habitats, grasslands and agricultural lands, were all stretched to the limit. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, short-term economic interests, population pressures and poverty have put a heavy burden on these ecosystems. At the regional level biodiversity was found to be facing various threats caused by human activities resulting in disturbance, loss and fragmentation of habitats.

72. Several countries noted that measures taken under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as many other environmental agreements, have been strengthened. It was further noted that the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was concluded under the auspices of the Convention in 2000. Some countries reported that national biodiversity strategies have been developed in compliance with the Convention. Others referred to the success that has been made in arresting forest degradation, cleaning rivers and protecting sensitive ecosystems. Some regional organizations have developed regional biodiversity strategies.

73. Many participants highlighted the close link between land degradation, including desertification, poverty and hunger. Land degradation has resulted in a loss of soil quality, with adverse impacts on agricultural productivity and food security, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly in Africa. Degradation of agricultural land and decline in soil fertility continue to be a major threat to food security and sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Expanding world population, accelerating urbanization and growing competition for scarce resources (resulting in deforestation, erosion and soil depletion) were seen as worsening the problems.

74. The concept of integrated land management, linking agriculture, rural development, water use and conservation, soil degradation and depletion, extraction of minerals and metals, and natural disasters, such as floods, droughts and landslides, has been accepted by many countries as a crucial component of efforts to combat rural poverty as well as rural and urban food insecurity. Implementation of the land-related chapters of Agenda 21 has brought together stakeholders from the concerned sectors, working with Governments at the local and national levels and with relevant international organizations.

75. The Convention to Combat Desertification was recognized as an important outcome of UNCED, with its adoption in 1994 and its entry into force in December 1996. Many speakers noted with concern, however, that the Convention is unique among the UNCED conventions in not having a funding mechanism. The lack of adequate funding has hindered the implementation of the Convention, particularly with regard to the more than 50 national action programmes that have been elaborated for many of the most affected countries. Countries welcomed the recent proposal by the Global Environment Facility to consider land degradation as a new focal area for funding and they urged all States to support this decision when it comes before the GEF Assembly in October 2002. Many countries called for a substantial and successful third replenishment of the GEF.

76. It was noted that the world's natural forests continue to be converted to agriculture and other land uses at a high rate. The rate of deforestation globally for the 1990s was estimated at over 14 million hectares (ha) per year, mostly in tropical developing countries. At the same time, there has been an increase in forest area in some developed and developing countries, due to both natural forest succession on abandoned agricultural land and the establishment of forest plantations at about five million ha per year. That increase in forest area has helped offset deforestation in other areas, resulting in the net annual loss in forest area worldwide of about nine million ha. Net deforestation rates were highest in Africa and South America, whereas in Asia, new forest plantations significantly offset deforestation.

77. Several countries called for international support for the implementation of United Nations Forum on Forests plan of action. It was stated that the involvement of least developed countries in the Forum was important. Emphasis should be given to the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands as well as to the examination of causes of deforestation and

forest degradation. There is also a need for cooperation among international organizations and instruments in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Some countries also called for the development of an international legal framework on forests. One country also noted a need to address forest crime, including illegal logging issues.

78. It was suggested by several speakers that sustainable mountain development could serve as a model for a comprehensive approach to the protection and sustainable management of an entire living space. The 2002 International Year of Mountains can provide opportunities and incentives for furthering scientific research on mountains, addressing the linkages between climate change, energy and water resources. In view of their significance for sustainable development, several speakers urged that sustainable mountain development be considered as a separate item on the Summit agenda. It was also suggested that the Summit develop specific initiatives on sustainable mountain development. In October 2002, a summit on mountains will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, that will link the Year and the conclusions of the Summit.

79. It was noted that the expansion of irrigated agriculture and growing demands for water for industrial and municipal uses have increased pressures on freshwater resources in many countries over the last decade. Areas of water scarcity are increasing, particularly in North Africa and West Asia. In the next two decades, it is estimated that 17 per cent more water will be needed to produce food for growing populations in developing countries and that total water use will increase by 40 per cent. One third of the countries in water-stressed regions of the world are expected to face severe water shortages in the twenty-first century.

80. The view was expressed that, as water scarcity became more severe, there was a risk that water would become a source of conflict among peoples. However, sharing water had also been an important element of cooperation in many cultures, and there were many such regional cooperative efforts today. The international community had a special responsibility for providing political, technical and financial support.

81. Several countries pointed to their efforts to develop integrated watershed plans and reported some success in arresting forest degradation and in cleaning some rivers, protecting sensitive ecosystems, and creating environmental awareness. One country had reformed its national water resources policy and its integrated water resources management strategy, and had facilitated participation by the private sector and local communities in the management of water. Another country stated that it had provided safe water supply and sanitation to a higher percentage of households, had improved water management and had increased the number of protected areas, while another country reported that its communities had conserved watershed areas and helped reduce floods and landslides.

82. Several delegations strongly reiterated the Millennium Declaration goal of halving the number of people without access to freshwater by 2015 as a key element in poverty reduction. They also supported the additional target of halving the number of people without access to sanitation by 2015, as articulated at the Bonn International Conference on Freshwater, held in December 2001. The Summit should result in concrete action to meet the Millennium Declaration goals in that regard, together with well specified time bound measures and sources of finance and technology to support countries in their efforts to achieve the goal.

83. Some countries stressed the importance of gender issues and the participation of stakeholders in achieving those goals. Citing the recommendations from the Bonn Conference, they called for commitments from Governments and stakeholders for better governance arrangements for public and private partnerships; mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure and services; and partnerships for capacity-building and sharing technology and knowledge.

84. The view was expressed that water was best dealt with at the regional level, and that all efforts should be in conformity with existing agreements among States sharing a transboundary water course and should maximize upstream and downstream benefits and help the development of water resources and the protection of water quality for the benefit of all riparian states. Another country stated that it was not ready to go beyond the texts that were adopted on water issues at the conclusion of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly and the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

85. Other countries called on the international community to support regional cooperation initiatives undertaken by States on international watercourses.

Innovative bilateral and regional approaches were needed for international watercourses and agreements should be in conformity with international law principles and conventions. The view was expressed that decisions to construct large infrastructure projects, including dams, should be made in consultation with all riparian States and should minimize the potential negative impacts. Others stressed the imperative of multilateral cooperation in the sustainable management of natural resources, including land and water resources.

86. It was noted that a number of important international and regional conventions and agreements dealing with oceans and seas have been successfully negotiated since UNCED and it is noteworthy that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other legally-binding treaties have entered into force since 1992. Most recently, the United Nations fish stocks agreement entered into force in December 2001. A Reykjavik conference on responsible fisheries in the ecosystem has moved forward the debate on ecosystem-based fisheries management, as have various initiatives of the FAO. The Doha Ministerial Declaration of WTO and the provisions on removing harmful fisheries subsidies was welcomed. More and better scientific data on the oceans and seas are now available, although further support to monitoring and assessment efforts is required. Regional and subregional cooperation has increased and yielded positive results. International cooperation and coordination on oceans affairs has been facilitated by the establishment in 1999 of the General Assembly's informal consultative process on oceans, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 7/1.

87. Many countries expressed the view that the international community must address greater attention to the oceans, which are of central importance for human development, poverty reduction and food security. Some focused in particular on the protection and sustainable management of fisheries; others were concerned especially with coasts and coastal zone management. The vital importance of shipping to global development and the safety of the seas were mentioned by some.

88. The small island developing States urged a renewed commitment to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, which was adopted in 1994, and requested support for a comprehensive 10-year review of its implementation in 2004. It was noted that the Programme of Action was reviewed at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The considerable efforts of small island developing States were acknowledged. But the overall assessment pointed to no real substantive changes in achievement. To highlight the point, the review identified six focal areas requiring not only priority — climate change, natural and environmental disasters, freshwater resources, coastal and marine resources, energy and tourism. In the meantime, there has been significant cause for concern because recent studies point to a steady decline in environmental quality in small island developing States in all regions.

89. Several participants expressed the view that the report of the Secretary-General did not give enough attention to oceans and small island developing States issues and many speakers urged that oceans, coasts and islands become a central theme of the Summit. Some countries called for a dedicated interactive dialogue on oceans and islands during the Summit preparatory process with the aim of arriving at global implementation initiatives, and another suggested that time be set aside to specifically address oceans issues.

90. Speakers emphasized the need for an integrated approach to marine and coastal management, as urged by the review of oceans conducted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and noted concerns that both Governments and international institutions often follow a fragmented approach based on sectoral issues. The oceans must be considered as a whole and not as a cross-cutting issue. With 80 per cent of marine pollution caused by land-based sources, many participants urged more effective implementation of the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as called for in the Montreal Declaration.

91. Better scientific information and assessment of the interaction between the atmosphere, oceans and climate change is necessary, especially with respect to coastal areas and small island developing States, although the major constraint in implementing the Programme of Action is not lack of information but inadequate financial and technical resources. Financial and technical support to many coastal developing countries is lacking. Capacity-building with regard to both institutions and human resources is required.

92. The occurrence of disasters has deeply affected the environment. Floods and tropical cyclones have had devastating effects on the people and economies in Africa, Asia and Latin America over the past 10 years. Natural disasters had taken an enormous annual toll of human suffering, loss of lives and property damage, sometimes reaching a cost of US$ 440 billion in one year. The El Niño/La Niña events have also resulted in enormous global socio-economic losses. Sea-level rise has caused inundation of the freshwater lens on island States.

93. It was noted that energy is essential for economic growth and social development but is also associated with air pollution, increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other damage to health and the environment. Some countries consider the world's current energy system to be unsustainable. However, a number of countries reported having paid particular attention to implementing the principles for integrating sustainable development and environmental protection into their energy sector policies or national sustainable development objectives by reducing the consumption of fuel and energy resources, enhancing the use of renewable sources of energy, and giving priority to the use of clean fuels and energy sources. In some cases, the results of active policies and the implementation of appropriate practical measures for energy efficiency have resulted in significant reductions in the GDP power intensity. Nevertheless, many opportunities remain for reducing energy intensity and for adopting measures to encourage investments in the utilization of indigenous and renewable energy resources. It was noted that the Global Environment Facility has been quite effective in supporting renewable energy technology, as currently constituted, but is inadequate for addressing the other energy issues of sustainable development.

94. The effects of poor air quality on health were highlighted and efforts to improve air quality were mentioned by several countries. The adverse impact of unsustainable consumption and production patterns on air quality was also mentioned. The severe and lingering impacts of the Chernobyl accident on the air quality of that region and inadequate capacity to mitigate its effects were noted.

95. Several countries mentioned efforts by their Governments to reduce air pollution by implementing sustainable development plans, enacting legislation and making considerable investments to that end. Other countries have taken action to control air pollution by closing heavily polluting factories and businesses. In addition, efforts have been made to include civil society in the decision-making process for implementing strategies and plans to reduce air pollution.

96. There was considerable support for the view that climate change remains the most urgent global environmental problem. Countries noted that human lives and livelihoods are already at risk due to climate change, particularly in small island developing States countries. The most serious impacts of climate change and sea-level rise are accelerated damage to coral reefs, coastlines and food crops, and seawater inundation of freshwater lenses. The frequency of those impacts is increasing in number and severity. The impact of climate change on mountains and the Arctic region was given particular mention. In mountain regions, the greatest concern is the threat of receding glaciers with the potential for glacial lake outbursts, while in the Arctic the effects on ice cover, sea currents and permafrost could have global consequences.

97. The decision reached on implementation of the Kyoto Protocol at Marrakesh in 2001 was generally regarded as a breakthrough accomplishment that will provide strong new impetus to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. At the same time, some countries mentioned the climate change programme of GEF as a true post-UNCED success story, although resources remain inadequate. Many countries agreed that the issues of climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification and land degradation are closely interrelated, and synergies of environmental conventions, such as the Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification and Biological Diversity, need to be strengthened.

98. Over the past 10 years, many countries, regions and institutions have implemented national Agenda 21 plans of action, sustainable development strategies and supportive legislation, with discernible impact on the national planning processes. However, a number of countries felt that sustainable development policies and programmes have in general fallen short of the level of policy integration required to simultaneously serve economic, social and environmental objectives.

99. An international forum on national sustainable development strategies was held in Accra in November 2001 with the purpose of reviewing such experience,

sharing lessons learned and recommending approaches to integrate key characteristics of sustainable development strategies into policies and programmes at the national level. Participatory institutional structures and forums, including councils for sustainable development or inter-ministerial commissions, have greatly improved the relevance and quality of those strategies in many countries.

100. Noting the outcomes of the Accra forum and the key characteristics for a national sustainable development strategy, several countries urged the Summit to make a renewed and time-bound commitment to elaborate and implement national sustainable development strategies in all countries. A manual on the development and implementation of sustainable development at the national level could be developed for launching at the Summit.

101. The United Nations system was called upon to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing their sustainable development strategies. It was stressed that regional approaches to strategies and implementation of sustainable development initiatives be given particular consideration.

102. The advent of information and communication technologies has enhanced awareness about environment and sustainable development issues. However, there is a need to do a better job of managing information and science and to provide decision makers with a solid understanding of global, regional and local environmental challenges upon which to base policy decisions. It was recognized that environmental administration and protection is a knowledge-intensive activity, which demands a high degree of scientific and technological expertise. In the case of the Pacific small island developing States, dispersed populations, small sizes and vast ocean distances have long hampered the development of ICTs. Those circumstances impose large costs on service provisions in education, economic development, social welfare, health, travel and communication, and have constrained the growth of important industries, such as fisheries, agriculture and tourism.

103. Even though new problems have emerged, such as the digital divide, ICTs will play an enhanced role in sustainable development, including in environmental protection. Bridging the digital divide both within and among countries as well as sharing and transferring of other relevant technologies, including environmentally sound technology, is very crucial. Therefore, capacity-building and technology transfer must also be underlined if we are to overcome constraints to sustainable development.

104. New information technologies have facilitated the development of databases on natural resources that can be used to analyse environmental conditions within specific regions. Earth observation satellites have been increasingly providing essential data in support of many projects for sustainable development. To effectively gather information on the state of the Earth and its environment, it has become important to organize global observations using various satellites of space agencies. For that purpose, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) has played an essential role as an international framework for the coordination of earth observation programmes worldwide. Earth observation satellites in support of activities of CEOS will be launched to promote the sharing of the benefits of Earth observation data for sustainable development.

105. A methodology using indicators at the local, regional, national and international levels should be used for such assessments, according to some. The importance of indicators for monitoring progress in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit was emphasized by one country, and the further development and use of common sets of indicators for sustainable development was stressed as being crucial. Several countries reported that, to that end, a wide variety of sustainable development related indicators had been elaborated and developed in many countries and international organizations. In particular, the outcome of the work programme on indicators of sustainable development of the Commission on Sustainable Development was seen as helpful in the preparation of national indicator sets.

106. Small island developing States reported success in the development of vulnerability measures based on economic factors since the adoption of the Programme of Action. Pacific countries are well advanced in the development of an environmental vulnerability index, and the Caribbean States are in the process of developing a similar index, studying the effects of social factors. With those measures, small island developing States should be able to better understand their capacities and abilities in the effort to achieve sustainable development.

107. Several countries stressed that 10 years after UNCED, the lack of scientific and technical capacity remains a major obstacle to sustainable development in many countries. The development and application of scientific and technological knowledge and capabilities are absolutely critical factors underpinning progress on sustainable development in all countries. Collective and individual efforts on sustainable development require harnessing sound science and traditional knowledge as the basis of policy development and implementation. Yet in some countries, the scientific and technological community have faced enormous challenges in deepening their scientific understanding of sustainable development and in providing authoritative advice for decision-making, including in areas of measurements and monitoring, or elaborating principles of sustainable development impact assessment, and reshaping their own institutional structures and mechanisms to that effect. Concrete proposals are needed for strengthening existing scientific networks and institutions.

108. The need to preserve the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities was emphasized by a number of countries, as well as their equitable participation in the benefits obtained from its commercial use.

109. Capacity-building, together with other means of implementation, such as finances and technology transfer, are integral and indivisible tools to achieve sustainable development and need to be dealt with in a more holistic manner. Many developing countries felt that lack of capacity-building (in terms of human, technological and institutional capacity) in priority sectors has been one of the fundamental constraints facing developing countries in their efforts to implement Agenda 21. In that view, capacity-building has existed mainly in theory, and even where capacity has been built up it was quickly lost to more attractive and lucrative employment possibilities in developed countries.

110. Levels of external assistance for capacity-building remain a concern for most developing countries. Several countries mentioned that various international organizations, such as GEF, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, are involved to some extent in capacity-building efforts. According to some, those agencies and the donor groups need to pursue more effective partnerships, while ensuring transparency and openness, in order to minimize duplication and ensure the most efficient mechanism for the implementation of future activities in the area of capacity-building. Some participants observed that instead of building capacity according to country needs, capacity-building activities, at times, have followed priorities other than those of the recipients, often relying on too many external consultants, which has had a negative effect on capacity-building since such approaches increase dependency without building local capacity or creating a sense of national ownership.

111. Several countries, however, noted the positive contribution made by the GEF/UNDP capacity 21 programme in enhancing the ability of developing countries to undertake local-level capacity development, but there is a room for further improvement. The challenge is to develop and implement an initiative of significantly larger scale that is able to respond to the growing needs of capacity development that cut across all sectors of sustainable development. Several countries called on the Summit to agree to significantly strengthen the capacity 21 programme as a key institutional mechanism for implementing Agenda 21. Others stressed, however, that capacity-building cannot be dependent solely on public investment but must also be based on generating growth within communities and the private sector that relate to job creation and the diversity of industries.

112. A number of countries called on the international community to give its fullest support to the efforts of developing countries to strengthen capacity both at the national and the subregional levels. Strengthening, in particular, regional education, research and developmental institutions, as well as development of physical infrastructure in such vital areas as transport, information and communication, science and technology and energy, was encouraged. In addition, there is an urgent need to develop and implement a capacity-building framework which adopts an integrated and participatory approach that nurtures the well-being of individuals, families, communities and society, and encourages and empowers people to take ownership of processes that affect them.

113. Most countries agreed that one of the genuine successes in the past 10 years has been the increasing participation of civil society and major groups at all levels in decision-making. A steady improvement of stakeholder consultations through local Agenda 21 initiatives was reported, with local Agenda 21

programmes now adopted in over 6,000 localities in 113 countries.

114. The importance of all stakeholders, including governments at both the national and local levels, enterprises and civil society, cooperating closely to achieve sustainable development is generally acknowledged. In particular, since many business enterprises and NGOs possess professional and practical technology and know-how they have played an important role in promoting positive changes in society by effectively combining their activities with those of national and local governments.

115. Some countries noted that much of the concrete action on sustainable development has taken place in coalitions involving government at all levels — national, state and local, as well as NGOs, business, indigenous groups and other stakeholders. Such "coalitions of the willing" are the most effective way to pursue sustainable development. They offer a powerful approach, with many applications both domestically and internationally. As a result of greater participation of civil society in the policy debate and in decision-making in the field of sustainable development, public awareness has increased and has been translated into better institutional and legal frameworks.

116. It was noted that the transparent participation and shared responsibilities of civil society is of utmost importance in the design of, implementation of and follow-up to sustainable development policies and regional and international commitments on sustainable development. Governments were encouraged to financially promote the participation of non-governmental actors in the process. Partnerships among major groups are an essential means, leading to influencing decision-making processes.

117. Empowering the poor, particularly women, was seen by some as essential in recognizing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability so as to enable them to influence the policies, processes and institutions shaping their lives, including securing their rights to services, particularly education and health. In particular, access to education in general and efforts to raise public awareness of sustainable development issues are needed.

118. The contribution of the indigenous and local communities who use practices harmonious with the sustainable development objectives, as well as the need for protection of their traditional knowledge, was considered extremely valuable. In fact, some countries suggested that it is a priority to pay special attention to the specific needs and concerns of indigenous peoples, with regard to environmental issues and biotechnology. In many instances, they are major stakeholders in natural resources exploitation in their traditional lands, in eco-tourism and in bio-prospecting.

119. The view was expressed that one group, which accounts for about 20 per cent of population in almost every country, was somehow forgotten in Agenda 21 and discussions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This is the group of senior, retired people. Aged persons should be considered as an important social group, indispensable for sustainable development due to their experience and wisdom and their love and care for the younger generations. In implementing the principle of partnership and participation, senior and retired people should be recognized as one of the major groups.

120. Some countries, in assessing the decade since UNCED, noted the need to strengthen the ability to monitor the implementation of agreements and the impact of programmes. Improvements in reporting mechanisms are needed to ensure greater accountability and commitment. In that respect, several countries suggested the need for more effective integration among development finance institutions, multi-trade systems and the United Nations agencies dealing with sustainable development.

121. Some countries felt that the international environmental governance process currently undertaken by UNEP was one of the most important institutional contributions in preparation for the Summit and that UNEP, in that context, should be strengthened. Others stressed, however that the finalization of the process should await the results of a detailed examination of future arrangements for sustainable development governance, and should not infringe on the autonomy of the respective conferences of the parties of multilateral environmental agreements or on the governance structures of other institutions.

122. A number of countries felt that improved linkages and effective coordination of all agencies involved in the implementation of sustainable development, within and outside the United Nations system, was needed. A review of the institutional structure for sustainable development could include core bodies of the United Nations, such as the Commission on Sustainable

Development, UNDP and UNEP, in partnership agreements with the major groups, including the regional commissions, financial institutions and taking into consideration the outcome of the Millennium Summit and other major conferences. It should also lead to greater coherence and consistency between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.

123. Strengthened institutional arrangements for sustainable development, with enhanced capacity to facilitate the implementation of the Summit outcomes, was recommended by some. Voluntary regional and subregional cooperation was seen as an important element in a system of international governance for sustainable development, and thus it was expressed that a regional approach to sustainable development should be encouraged and the role of regional institutions, such as the regional development banks and the regional commissions, should be enhanced.

124. Since the majority of decisions affecting sustainable development are made at the national and local levels, it was stressed that good governance at the national level is fundamental to sustainability, and that this could be ensured by transparency and accountability, which in turn could lead to proactive and responsive policies and improved partnerships. The strengthening of local, public and private processes in the formulation of policies for sustainable development and the facilitation of exchange of information and experience between countries and regions of the world were considered especially important.

125. The view was expressed that strong, sound institutional elements in domestic institutions, including fair regulatory systems, transparency and the rule of law, provided for more effective ODA and made countries more attractive to potential investors. Good governance structures, as well as strong, sound institutional elements, continue to be of primary importance for achieving sustainable development. It was stressed that building those institutional elements requires new kinds of partnerships with government, civil society and business.

126. In conclusion, many participants felt that a viable programme of action from the Summit can only be effectively implemented with a clear and firm political commitment. A strong political declaration by world leaders that reflects a shared vision, a genuine spirit of partnership and common ownership would provide a solid basis for all countries to support the outcomes of the Summit and to advance implementation of Agenda 21 and the Declaration on Environment and Development. All participants committed themselves to making the preparatory process and the Summit a success.

Annex II

Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholders dialogue segment

1. At its second session, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development included a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment from 29 to 31 January 2002, involving all nine Agenda 21 major groups and Governments. The segment consisted of four sessions: a plenary discussion focusing on overall progress achieved and priorities for future action, two parallel discussion groups (one on integrated approaches to sectoral and cross-sectoral areas of sustainable development and the other on enabling and promoting multi-stakeholder participation in sustainable development institutions) and a final plenary aiming to identify new opportunities for partnerships to implement sustainable development.

General observations

2. The dialogues showed the enthusiasm of Governments and major groups to engage in partnerships and develop implementation initiatives for achieving sustainable development. It was agreed that accountable, responsible, innovative and equal partnerships are crucial for integrated approaches to sustainable development. Such partnerships would also recognize that the fundamental principle of sustainable development is diversity and would not seek a monoculture of views. Rather than seeking one common vision, efforts would acknowledge diversity but agree to work on finding the areas of commonality and take action in partnership on those areas and goals.

3. All participants highlighted the many opportunities that exist for partnership at all levels, particularly at the local and national levels. A proposal called for local councils for sustainable development to enhance the work of the councils at the national level. There was general agreement to further explore the potential partnerships identified, such as those between NGOs and local authorities (aiming for poverty eradication and rural development), youth and young professionals (on issues of unemployment and youth participation), business and other major groups (on issues of corporate accountability) and trade unions and local authorities (on promoting local and workplace-based initiatives).

4. The discussions also explored issues related to participation mechanisms. There was overall agreement on the need to institutionalize the multi-stakeholder dialogue process at all levels to enhance partnerships for sustainability. Participants strongly favoured the involvement of major groups in decision-making at all levels, following a bottom-up and rights-based approach to the governance of sustainable development implementation processes. A framework for multi-stakeholder participation that would enhance participation and facilitate partnerships was considered a necessary and constructive step. It was highlighted that such a framework should ensure a level playing field, be transparent and be based on mutual trust and respect for rights.

5. There was overall agreement that poverty alleviation and economic stability are crucial for environmental and social sustainability. Proposals were made for greater focus on decent employment and sustainable job creation, particularly for women, youth and vulnerable groups. There were strong calls for increased cooperation between all actors to address issues in such areas as mining, land ownership, resource management, privatization of public utilities (especially water sector), changing production and consumption behaviour, monitoring corporate activity and reducing corruption.

6. The growing debt burden of developing countries was raised as a priority, and some major groups appealed for debt cancellation. Numerous major group participants also offered ideas for alternative financing measures. Among those ideas put forward were a self-financing world Marshall plan to combat poverty and a proposal for an international energy fund. Major groups also suggested priority be given to investments in education, training and strengthening the knowledge base, and capacity-building in science and technology, especially in developing countries and among women, youth, indigenous peoples and marginalized sectors of society.

7. Knowledge, information access, sustainable development education and related training were raised as key elements of accelerating implementation efforts.

The need for innovations in science and technology to help alleviate poverty and address issues related to water, energy and climate change was highlighted. Numerous calls were made for improved monitoring of the Earth's physical systems and free access to the resulting data. Offers for cooperation were made by the scientific community in a variety of areas, including dissemination of science and technology, increasing access to information and communication, efficiency in production processes, energy and education.

8. Major groups supported regional and local approaches to sustainable development. The success of local initiatives and partnerships were acknowledged and strong calls were made for further capacity-building at the local level. Building capacity for effective major group participation, as well as disseminating best practices, were strongly supported.

9. Most participants supported increased participation by young people at all levels of governance. It was also agreed that gender is a critical issue and that gender-disaggregated data and information need to be further developed. Various major groups proposed adding other groups to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable development, such as educators, the media, the advertising industry and the consumers and consumer protection community.

10. Peace and stability were also seen as prerequisites of sustainable development, and calls were made for intergovernmental support for major group participation in that area. The importance of promoting the values and ethics of sustainable development was raised.

Summaries of the sessions

Opening plenary: general discussion on progress achieved and priorities

11. In their opening statement, women recalled that Agenda 21 identified women as stewards of the environment and essential actors in sustainable development, and presented a number of successes in Africa and Asia where solutions to land acquisition and alternative banking systems were initiated through women's efforts. Youth pointed to successes with youth-to-youth initiatives and youth-led programmes dealing with such issues as HIV/AIDS, and noted with appreciation the gradual increase in the inclusion of youth in country delegations.

12. Successes noted by indigenous people included increased transnational partnerships, their inclusion as a major group in Agenda 21, the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, examples of national laws and policies to protect indigenous peoples' rights and their increased participation at the international level. NGOs recalled the success of UNCED in building a conceptual link between environment and development, forging the basis for a North-South deal and introducing sustainable development as a global objective, as well as pioneering efforts since UNCED for dialogues between government and civil society.

13. Local authorities noted successes in delivering sustainable development through local Agenda 21 initiatives in which long-term approaches to planning and multi-stakeholder participation are integral elements, and pointed out that cumulative local actions translate to national success. Successes identified by the trade unions included an emerging vision for addressing issues through public policies and meaningful efforts to include sustainable development concepts in health and safety through joint action in the workplace. They highlighted the importance of giving priority to the social dimension of sustainable development, in particular to the linkage between employment and poverty eradication, in the next phase of work.

14. Business and industry highlighted progress in partnership initiatives and success in seeing sustainable development as "good business", and provided several examples to demonstrate those points. Scientific and technological communities praised progress achieved in reducing uncertainties regarding the functioning of the Earth, noted success in new scientific ventures aiming for sustainable development, and highlighted the need for partnerships between social and economic disciplines as well as among communities.

15. Farmers noted progress made in acknowledging the role of farmers, sustainable management of resources, increased partnerships, institutional and economic reforms for decentralized decision-making to include farmers at local levels, new policies and programmes to strengthen the role of women to achieve food security, improved quality of agricultural products and reduced environmental impacts, and sustainable farming through certification schemes and awareness campaigns.

16. A number of barriers to progress were highlighted by different major groups, including:

(a) The growing poverty gap especially in rural areas;

(b) Failure to meet the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of national GNP to ODA;

(c) Continuing marginalization of women, lack of gender equality in government policies, the continuing gap between men's and women's access to and management of resources, and poorly implemented obligations of governments and other stakeholders;

(d) Lack of support for formal and non-formal education;

(e) Failure to stem corruption;

(f) Lack of political commitment to the existing legal frameworks shown by the low rate of ratification of the Kyoto and Cartagena protocols, as well as lack of adequate follow-up to the non-binding agreements, and insufficient support for other international instruments, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the various ILO conventions on workers' and indigenous peoples' rights;

(g) Lack of proper, reliable and participatory monitoring of implementation of binding and non-binding agreements related to sustainable development;

(h) Inadequate efforts to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in developed countries, and continuing unsustainable practices that adversely affect indigenous and local communities, as well as women and youth;

(i) Lack of adequate national plans and basic institutional frameworks for sustainable agriculture;

(j) Inadequate efforts to address the detrimental impacts of globalization on health, livelihood, food security, industrial relations and culture, among other areas;

(k) Increasing conflicts over land and resources between indigenous and local communities and corporate actors;

(l) Lack of programmes to regulate sources of environmental degradation, address global development governance and outline plans for implementation and compliance;

(m) Insufficient attention to the adverse impacts of globalization, deregulation, privatization and WTO policies;

(n) Increasing military conflicts and increasing financial allocations to defence budgets;

(o) Insufficient scientific and professional expertise, especially in developing countries;

(p) Poor coordination and cooperation between governmental institutions and the resulting fragmentation of policies and programmes related to sustainability;

(q) Lack of political will to promote joint workplace approaches to change;

(r) Lack of sufficient commitment to ensure national and international good governance;

(s) Insufficient efforts for sustainable development education; inadequate access to knowledge, information and other resources, as well as lack of capacity;

(t) Lack of youth participation in decision-making in general.

17. Statements from Egypt and the EU strongly supported the focus on poverty eradication and partnerships but also appealed to the major groups for their help with identifying concrete deliverables for the Summit and for sustainable development work beyond this milestone. Bangladesh and others emphasized participation and integration of the multi-stakeholder dialogue processes as a key instrument for successful sustainable development action in the community, workplace and at the national level. The EU underscored its commitment to supporting NGO participation in decision-making processes in sustainable development at all levels in the Summit framework, and Japan supported creation of information platforms for NGO activities. Governmental and non-governmental participants supported partnership-based approaches to future sustainable development implementation efforts.

18. There was general support for greater participation of civil society in trade-related intergovernmental spheres, such as the WTO negotiations, as a way to ensure more equitable benefits from globalization. In response to calls made by stakeholders on its increased role in sustainable development, the ILO confirmed its commitment.

Discussion on corporate accountability and better dialogue led to an invitation by NGOs to business and industry to work together in this area. Business and industry accepted, and other stakeholders also indicated interest in participating.

19. There was overall support for a greater role for science and technology to formulate comprehensive scenarios for the future and collaborate with other stakeholders in building on local scientific capacity, especially in developing countries. The role of media and education was reflected in Hungary's support for considering the media and educators as major groups. There was support for active engagement of youth in the national councils for sustainable development.

20. Participants made a number of proposals, including:

(a) Integrating multi-stakeholder participation into national sustainable development planning processes;

(b) Strengthening partnerships among Governments, intergovernmental bodies and major groups based on accountability and transparency;

(c) Taking a rights-based approach to sustainable development;

(d) Strengthening the Commission on Sustainable Development and the role of major groups within this body;

(e) Guaranteeing women's rights and ensuring their full participation in enabling sustainable economic, environmental and social development, and achieving gender balance in government institutions by 2005;

(f) Convening a youth summit prior to the Summit and including youth in the official government delegations to the Summit;

(g) Creating government departments or agencies for youth in all nations by 2005;

(h) Allocating 20 per cent of ODA to sustainable development education and to sustainable development initiatives of young people; and integrating sustainable development into all education programmes;

(i) Creating information exchange platforms for NGOs and other major groups;

(j) Designing operational plans for future sustainable development work on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and the precautionary principle;

(k) Reviving the North-South compact that was reached in Rio de Janeiro;

(l) Launching a process for a framework convention on corporate accountability; reforming international financial institutions; and regulating financial markets;

(m) Using the workplace as basis for tackling public health problems, such as HIV/AIDS;

(n) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to build on their proven successes; recognizing local leadership in generating best practices and local cooperation;

(o) Supporting local programmes, including those in the workplace, to promote sustainable production and consumption;

(p) Using the principle of prior informed consent as a standard crucial to promoting and protecting indigenous peoples' right to self-determination;

(q) Convening a conference of scientists in parallel with the Summit.

Discussion group I
Progress achieved in applying integrated approaches to sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of sustainable development

21. Participating major groups highlighted some successes in integrated approaches, including increased willingness to take responsibility for environmentally sustainable development; use of low-technology options for health and sanitation, agriculture, energy and conflict reduction; creating business management systems to encompass all aspects of sustainability; and involvement by many communities in local Agenda 21 programmes.

22. A number of challenges and priority areas that could benefit from more integrated approaches were identified, including:

(a) Prioritizing issues of poverty and inequality;

(b) Seeing economic stability as a prerequisite for sustainability;

(c) Seeing the workplace as a tool for integrated approaches;

(d) Addressing unemployment;

(e) Ensuring access to affordable and secure water and energy resources;

(f) Investing in agriculture to address rural poverty and support the role of farmers;

(g) Increasing interdisciplinary scientific research;

(h) Increasing cooperation for sustainable development education at all levels;

(i) Increasing awareness of sustainable production and consumption;

(j) Meeting agreed ODA targets and seeking synergies with private investment;

(k) Eliminating corruption in public and private sectors;

(l) Mainstreaming gender and developing gender-disaggregated data;

(m) Developing science and technology that integrates the three pillars of sustainable development, using participatory approaches that involve relevant stakeholders.

23. In the course of the dialogue, many Governments supported suggestions for integrated efforts for sustainable development in formal and non-formal education initiatives, youth participation, access to scientific and technological information and data resources, and cooperation among stakeholders and across sectors. Brazil supported the important role of scientific research and development in capacity-building and data provision. Samoa and the Republic of Korea stressed regional and subregional development models in addressing issues such as climate change, and access to water and energy resources.

24. Indonesia and the United Kingdom stressed poverty eradication, efforts to focus on the social dimensions of sustainable development; and the rights of women, indigenous people, and workers. Sweden supported the suggestion to restore the role of the ILO.

25. A number of Governments, including South Africa, Nigeria and Finland, supported suggestions on the need to tackle the adverse impact of globalization and trade liberalization by creating a new sustainable development paradigm, addressing the problems raised in relation to industry through stakeholder participation. Hungary highlighted the desire for a "new global deal" to emerge from the Summit process. The Netherlands and Germany highlighted the power of consumer organizations in changing unsustainable production and consumption behaviour. Sweden, Austria and many others supported calls for gender mainstreaming and analysis, integrating the rights of women and youth participation.

26. Participants made proposals towards further integration and achievement of sectoral and cross-sectoral goals of sustainable development, some of which present potentials for future partnerships. Those proposals included:

(a) Focusing on poverty alleviation through employment and sustainable job creation (particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable groups), and on innovations in science and technology in the areas of water, energy and climate change;

(b) Developing an integrated set of poverty indicators;

(c) Seeking alternative financing measures (proposals for a self-financing world Marshall plan to combat poverty and for an international energy fund);

(d) Prioritizing investments in education, training, agriculture and capacity-building in science and technology, especially in developing countries;

(e) Building capacity at the community level to enhance local initiatives;

(f) Using consumer markets to influence production and consumption patterns;

(g) Fostering accountable, responsible and innovative partnerships and cooperation among all relevant sectors in such areas as mining, land ownership, food security, resource management, production and consumption behaviour, monitoring corporate activity and corruption;

(h) Developing targets and timetables for phasing out harmful subsidies that promote unsustainable development;

(i) Increasing sustainable energy sources to 5 per cent of total energy use by 2010;

(j) Supporting sustainable development education at all levels, including the development of

related curricula, links with vocational programmes, and databases for pedagogical processes;

(k) Increasing support for scientific and research data collection for monitoring the Earth's physical systems;

(l) Increasing representation and participation by youth at all levels.

Discussion group 2
Progress achieved in enabling and promoting multi-stakeholder participation in sustainable development institutions and mechanisms

27. Stakeholders highlighted a number of successful multi-stakeholder processes. Farmers mentioned two programmes in South Africa: the "Working for water" programme, which contributes to water security and creates jobs, and the use of bio-solids to enhance soil quality. Scientific communities pointed to human genome mapping, advances in climatology for effective monitoring and prediction of natural disasters and the Montreal Protocol process as examples of successful partnerships between scientists and Governments. Business and industry noted the global mining initiative and the FAO multi-stakeholder dialogues (instituted in follow up to recommendations made at the eighth session of the Commission) as examples of success.

28. Trade unions highlighted successful worker participation models from Croatia, Germany and other European countries on occupational health and safety. They also shared experience with government-worker partnerships in Italy to protect ports from toxic releases from shipping. Local authorities referred to the role of local governments in multi-stakeholder participation and the steady improvement of stakeholder consultations through local Agenda 21 efforts, and reported that such efforts now exist in over 6,000 localities in 113 countries. They highlighted national government support as a key element of success and shared examples from Uganda on legal frameworks that support women's and youth participation in local councils. National local Agenda 21 campaigns (such as those in Turkey, Japan and the Republic of Korea) have demonstrated that local Agenda 21 processes are effective approaches to sustainability and conflict resolution.

29. NGOs highlighted models of participation, such as the work of the World Commission on Dams, which pioneered an effective multi-stakeholder decision-making process, as well as the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and the numerous national councils for sustainable development. Examples of success pointed out by indigenous people included the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations, the Inter-Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity in the Convention on Biological Diversity process, the Arctic Council and the Saami Agenda 21 process in Finland.

30. Women referred to progress in bringing women into the decision-making process in the Nordic countries, India, France, Namibia, South Africa, Brazil and the Philippines, thus proving that gender balance is possible where there is political will. Scientific and technological communities highlighted the multi-stakeholder round on energy for sustainable development held in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in early February 2002 in India as an example of successful collaboration between scientists and other major groups.

31. In the dialogue that followed, Denmark reiterated the positive experience of the Arctic Council in creating a participatory process; the EU pointed to the Barcelona Convention on Protecting the Baltic Sea as another example of success, and Turkey referred to its continuing efforts to engage young people in decision-making processes.

32. Brazil, Bangladesh and the Philippines highlighted their positive experiences in including major groups in their national preparatory processes for the Summit. Japan pointed out that, with the collaboration of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives, a network of 150 local Agenda 21 initiatives is in place in the country, and that this experience is now being expanded in neighbouring countries, such as China and the Republic of Korea, and it announced a symposium on local Agenda 21 initiatives to be held in April 2002 in Yokohama as a contribution to the Summit.

33. Stakeholders also identified numerous barriers to enabling and promoting multi-stakeholder participation and achievement of sustainable development, including:

(a) Weak capacity to participate and lack of access to knowledge across borders and institutional means to empower local communities;

(b) Lack of adequate institutional frameworks for dialogue, including clearly defined mechanisms, partners, and indications of outcomes;

(c) Lack of necessary governmental frameworks that ensure a level playing field for the expansion of sound businesses;

(d) Detrimental policies of the World Bank, IMF and other financial institutions; and adverse impact of privatization and globalization on rights and empowerment;

(e) Diminishing support for small farmers, distortions to international trade, drain on local farming communities from armed conflict, detrimental effects of subsidies on the farming sector, and growing poverty in the rural sector;

(f) Growing inequality between and within countries, and the growing power and influence of the corporate sector;

(g) Inequality in participation among major groups, especially regarding the influence of business, and lack of recognition of diversity among parties involved;

(h) Lack of education and awareness about sustainable development issues;

(i) Lack of gender perspectives and mainstreaming in national and international decision-making;

(j) Inadequate attention to work place health, with specific reference to HIV/AIDS as one of the most pressing workplace issues of our time;

(k) Use of power to overcome conflict and inadequate emphasis on peace and security as an essential prerequisite for sustainable development.

34. In response, Belgium agreed with the NGOs that the playing field is anything but level in terms of equity of major group participation. The Republic of Korea also stressed the key importance of poverty reduction, especially in rural areas.

35. A number of proposals and suggestions for future action were made, including:

(a) Giving stakeholders greater role in the decision-making process and increasing their institutional capacity in this process;

(b) Improving equity of opportunity to participate in the stakeholder process, including support for the participation of marginalized groups;

(c) Formulating a global framework for a convention on participation in decision-making, using as a basis existing frameworks, such as the Aarhus Convention, and several regional initiatives seeking to implement principle 10 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(d) Encouraging independent monitoring of Agenda 21 implementation (such as the access initiative);

(e) Strengthening the multi-stakeholder dialogue framework at all levels;

(f) Setting regional capacity-building mechanisms through collaboration between major groups and the United Nations;

(g) Promoting a more balanced form of decentralization of responsibility in which devolution of power and provision of services is accompanied by adequate sharing of resources and authority;

(h) The development of ecosystems approach to sustainable development planning;

(i) Increased ODA and technical assistance to place priority on capacity-building; and building capacity of peasant organizations to participate;

(j) Considering financing for sustainable development in the financing for development process;

(k) Adding good governance as the fourth pillar of sustainable development;

(l) Simplification of the United Nations accreditation process;

(m) Developing more user friendly United Nations web pages to increase access to information;

(n) Establishing a clearing house for the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in sustainable development;

(o) Creating a multilateral framework for production and trade that includes the principles of the right of all countries to protect domestic markets, the

precautionary principle, democratic participation and a ban on all forms of dumping;

(p) Cancelling unpayable debts of developing countries and abolishing structural adjustment practices;

(q) Enabling closer relationship between the scientific community and policy makers;

(r) Utilizing the capacity of the scientific and technological communities to support Governments and major groups in the adaptation of intellectual property concepts, and in improving information networks and infrastructure;

(s) Recognizing core ILO labour standards;

(t) Providing the necessary tools to ensure health and safety standards within the production processes;

(u) Providing political and financial support for a youth conference before the Summit;

(v) Formulating a United Nations resolution to facilitate partnership for peace; and

(w) Developing programmes to prevent violence.

36. In response, the Czech Republic agreed with local authorities about the need for balanced decentralization, and further stated that all stakeholders should be equal partners and involved in negotiations of the Summit process. Denmark emphasized the importance of participation of local governments in the Summit negotiation process, and stressed the importance of continuous brainstorming and solicitation of views of other stakeholders, such as the private sector, in creating a global deal framework for the Summit.

37. The EU emphasized the need to increase the participation of women and indigenous people. It also stated that the business sector has a responsibility and must inform consumers of the environmental consequences of the products they create. Turkey supported the call of youth for more sustainable production and consumption patterns. It also stated scepticism about the regional process and suggested subregional approaches. Indonesia stated the need to explore mechanisms that translate partnerships between major groups and Governments and among major groups into concrete action, and emphasized the importance of an action-oriented focus in the Summit process.

38. Brazil and Sweden agreed that broad participation in decision-making processes is essential to guarantee effective implementation of policy and projects. China maintained that Governments should provide a good environment for participation of major groups. Japan stressed the importance of networking among major groups to enhance active participation. Belgium stressed the importance of sharing experiences and nuances in different mechanisms implemented since UNCED. Bangladesh and Israel supported Hungary's proposal from the previous day to include educators and media as additional major groups. In addition, Israel proposed the addition of the advertising sector given its critical role in gaining consumer trust. It also supported the spread of public awareness and understanding of the concept of sustainable development through increased efforts by the United Nations, and through national plans on education for sustainable development developed with the active participation of youth and business.

Closing plenary
Discussion of new opportunities for implementation

39. The co-Chairs of the two discussion groups summarized the key points made. Major groups elaborated on those summaries by reiterating a number of points, including the need to provide sustainable development education; increase support for local governments; fund capacity-building for science and technology to stimulate employment and reduce poverty; expand the knowledge base to incorporate traditional knowledge and make information accessible in order to create employment, facilitate technology transfer, create alternative financing and debt relief solutions; address conflicting social values and restructure markets to encourage sustainable development behaviour; and change unsustainable production and consumption patterns. All participants stressed partnership initiatives as essential to implementation.

40. Farmers specifically stressed the need for Governments to invest in agriculture and ensure access to land and resources. Scientific communities emphasized health and the need for more focus on medical research and population issues. Indigenous people linked poverty eradication to territorial security,

economic and natural resource control, and supported the self-determination of models of development to manage communities and the recovery of ecosystems using traditional methods. Women stressed the need for time-bound targets. Trade unions prioritized workplace partnerships based on core workers' rights, with a focus on bottom-up processes to ensure engagement in the workplace. NGOs stressed the precautionary principle as a sovereign right. Youth called on Governments to achieve the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

41. Many supported statements by Tuvalu and Indonesia that the social pillar of sustainable development should take fuller account of the human spiritual dimension and incorporate ethics and cultural values into sustainable development education. Trade unions questioned the ethics of privatization and deregulation. Women and indigenous peoples called for closer review of how ODA is spent. Ghana raised the issue of bio-piracy. Bangladesh supported mainstreaming the concept of sustainable development in national planning and expressed confidence in the role of the media in that regard.

42. Indonesia and Brazil supported major group concerns on technology access, noting that the digital divide must be bridged to ensure equitable sharing of benefits from globalization. Japan reiterated a commitment to supporting dialogue networks. Scientific communities stressed that capacity-building in developing countries requires commitment of all Governments and cautioned against the trends of shifting resources from the public to the private sector. The EU expressed commitment to work towards improving access to information, and called on the science and technology community to contribute to cleaner technology development, especially in the energy sector. South Africa stressed that the Summit should focus on seeking time-bound targets and concrete measures for technology transfer, highlighting the potential role of the private sector in that regard. Business and industry noted that technology transfer is a process. The EU noted the importance of including actions by all levels of government in the plans emerging from the Summit.

43. Many endorsed stronger interaction between Governments and stakeholders in realizing outcomes, increased participation of major groups in United Nations processes and strengthening the Commission on Sustainable Development as the primary intergovernmental body dealing with sustainable development. The Netherlands underscored the importance of promoting diversity in all three sustainable development pillars. Turkey emphasized the need for local partnerships, and China connected an increase in stakeholder participation to enhanced cooperation at the international level. South Africa elaborated a number of points on further implementation of Agenda 21, calling for high-level political commitment and encouraging debate at the national level.

44. The following additional proposals were made:

(a) Promoting cooperation among civil society and Governments to create initiatives for sustainable production and consumption behaviour;

(b) Adopting targets and timetables for increased use of renewable energy;

(c) Mobilizing partnerships among business and industry, Governments, labour and civil society to address globalization in the form of tangible projects;

(d) Recognizing the role of the private sector in sustainable energy development;

(e) Managing water as a finite economic resource and shared cultural asset;

(f) Strengthening the Commission as an institution of global sustainable development governance;

(g) Building capacity in science and technology through collaboration among research institutions, the private sector and Governments;

(h) Developing action plans to ensure equal access to information;

(i) Placing food security and rural development on the Summit agenda, with a focus on even, just and well-structured markets and investment in agriculture, as well as achieving economic sustainability for small farmers.

Annex III

Proposals for partnerships/initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21

Introduction

The second type of outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development would include a whole range of partnerships focused on concrete and specific initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21. Such initiatives will be announced at the partnership events scheduled to take place during the official meetings of the Summit.

During the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit (28 January-8 February 2002), a number of proposals for partnerships were presented. An indicative list that identifies broad areas in which a large number of stakeholders expressed their interest is set out below. The list is neither exhaustive nor final and can be improved further.

The purpose of the list is to encourage interested parties to initiate action. Parties are expected to identify partners and specify clear targets, timetables, monitoring arrangements, coordination and implementation mechanisms, and arrangements for systematic and predictable funding and for technology transfer that may be required to launch initiatives. Progress reports may be submitted to the fourth session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, to be held in Jakarta from 27 May to 7 June 2002. To become part of the second type of outcome, such partnerships should be launched at the Summit.

List of proposals

- Global initiative to provide incentives to the private sector and to foundations to increase the flow of foreign capital and grants to developing countries, particularly those that have not been able to attract such flows.
- Public/private partnerships to provide financial assistance for the development of needed infrastructure in developing countries.
- Global network of related institutional support structures, including information systems, technology centres and research and development institutions to promote greater transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.
- Partnerships to develop cleaner production technologies and accelerate the commercialization and diffusion of such technologies.
- Global private/public partnership to develop and disseminate safe and affordable technologies for productivity enhancement and ecological management.
- Public/private partnership to provide incentives to larger companies and transnational corporations to facilitate access of small and medium-sized enterprises to environmentally sound technologies, for example by including and supporting them in production and supply chains.
- Partnership to establish a technology and scientific network.
- Partnerships to link countries that have hardware capabilities and software competence, and the need to use information and communication technologies the world over.
- Partnerships to link regional centres of excellence that would contribute to the development of the knowledge capacity of developing countries.
- Global initiative for lead-free fuels through technical, technological and financial assistance to developing countries.
- Global initiative for the provision of financial and technical assistance for the phasing out of lead in gasoline and the reduction of sulphur and benzene in fuels and particulates in vehicle exhaust to reduce health impacts.
- Regional partnerships to provide assistance to replace traditional biomass fuels and coal with affordable clean fuels.
- Global public/private partnership for the development and dissemination of technologies for sanitation and waste management for rural and urban areas in developing countries.

- Global partnership to improve human settlements, including through capacity-building support to local authorities.
- Global initiative to promote investment in the development of mass public transport systems.
- Global initiative to reverse the declining trend in public sector finance for agricultural research and for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- Partnership to enhance access to affordable and efficient irrigation systems.
- Global partnership to promote the development and dissemination of affordable and safe biotechnologies, particularly for agricultural production.
- Public-private partnership to improve outreach in basic agricultural techniques and knowledge to farmers with smallholdings and to the rural poor.
- Partnerships to realize the Millennium Declaration target of reducing by half the number of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water by 2015.
- Public-private partnerships for improving the efficient and equitable delivery of water resources to users.
- Global alliance on renewable energy and efficient clean conventional energy technologies to provide by 2015 energy services to half of the two billion people, mostly in rural and remote areas in developing countries, who currently have no access to modern energy services.
- Global partnership for financing energy for sustainable development, including renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and for sharing clean energy technologies at the global level.
- Global partnership to encourage the use of natural gas.
- Partnerships for capacity-building, technology transfer and financing sustainable development, especially in the areas of poverty, hunger, health, environmental protection and resource management under the Africa initiative.
- Global initiative to achieve access to affordable and diversified energy sources for Africa, especially in rural areas, by 2005.
- Global initiative to close the digital divide and reverse the marginalization of Africa by 2005.
- Partnerships to double agricultural productivity in Africa within a reasonable time frame.
- Global initiative to assist vulnerable countries in mobilizing all resources for adaptation to climate change, including the rehabilitation of communities following natural disasters related to extreme weather events.
- Global partnership for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the national and regional levels.

Annex IV

List of documents before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/1	1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/1/Add.1		Proposed organization of work
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/2	2	Letter dated 11 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/3	2	Letter dated 6 September 2002 form the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/4	2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a contribution to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5	2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the outcomes of regional preparatory meetings
		Addenda
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.1		ECE ministerial statement to the Summit
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.1/ Corr.1 (Russian only)		*Corrigendum*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.2		Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg, 2002
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.3		Arab Declaration to the Summit
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.4		African ministerial statement to the Summit
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.5		*Not issued*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.6		Singapore Declaration of the alliance of Small Island States
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6	2	Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment
		Addenda
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.1		Dialogue paper by women

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.2		Dialogue paper by youth
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.3		Dialogue paper by indigenous peoples
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.4		Dialogue paper by non-governmental organizations
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.5		Dialogue paper by local authorities
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.6		Dialogue paper by workers and trade unions
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.7		Dialogue paper by business and industry
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.8		Dialogue paper by the scientific and technological communities
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.9		Dialogue paper by farmers' organizations
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/7	2	Report of the Secretary-General on implementing Agenda 21
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/8	2	Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/9	2	Letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/10	2	Letter dated 7 January 2002 form the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/11	2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting contributions to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/12	2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/13	2	Letter dated 10 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/14	2	Letter dated 14 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the Secretary-General

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15	2	Letter dated 15 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Samoa and the Secretary-General of the Ministry for the Environment of Iceland to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/16	1	Note by the Secretary-General on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the Summit
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/17	1	Note by the Secretariat on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/18	2	Letter dated 25 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/19	1	Letter dated 27 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of China to the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/L.1	3	Draft report
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/CRP.1 (English only)		Programme of meetings and activities for the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/Misc.1		Note by the Secretariat transmitting a contribution to the Summit from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/Misc.2		Note by the Secretariat transmitting a contribution to the Summit form the Subsidiary Body of the Convention on Biological Diversity
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/Misc.3		*Not issued*
E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/Misc.4		Note by the Secretariat containing a list of background papers before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session

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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Third session
25 March-5 April 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Consideration of the Chairman's paper transmitted from the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, together with other relevant inputs to the preparatory process

International environmental governance

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme on international environmental governance (see annex), the appendix to which contains the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.

* A/CONF.199/PC/1.

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Annex

UNEP Governing Council decision SS.VII/1

SS.VII/1. International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Malmö Ministerial Declaration[1] of 31 May 2000, in which it was stated that the 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance, based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world and that in this regard, the role of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements in which the General Assembly established the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and supported proposals, inter alia, for the establishment for an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination, and for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment related conventions,

Further recalling its decision 21/21 of 9 February 2001 on international environmental governance in which it established an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives, with the Executive Director as an ex-officio member, to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and to undertake an in depth discussion of the report with a view to providing its input on future requirement of international environmental governance,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the excellent support provided to the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers in its deliberation of international environmental governance, which enabled it to conduct its work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner,

1. Adopts the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance[2] in the appendix to the present decision;

2. Invites the President of the Governing Council to transmit the present decision and the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development[3] at its third session;

3. Requests the Executive Director to present this decision and the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its third session;

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1 Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex

2 UNEP/GCSS.VII/L.4/Add.1.

3 General Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000.

4. Decides to review the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance at its twenty-second session, subject to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

5. Also decides to consider further measures for the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme in light of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its twenty-second session.

6th meeting
15 February 2002

Appendix

REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

I. BACKGROUND

1. The current debate on the requirements for a more coherent and more effective international environmental governance regime is a continuation of international efforts over the past decade to develop institutional responses to underpin international action to confront the increase of environmental threats faced by all countries. The growing body of scientific evidence as to the seriousness of environmental degradation has led to a proliferation of legal and institutional arrangements for international cooperation aimed at addressing specific environmental problems. As a result, the international community has become increasingly concerned with not only establishing a strengthened framework for coordinated international action but also ensuring that the limited resources available are deployed in the best possible manner for optimal effect.

2. The context within which international environmental policy formulation takes place has also evolved. Increasingly, environmental objectives are being pursued in the broader context of sustainable development as is evident in the work programmes of the recent mechanisms that have been established. Agenda 21 reaffirmed the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment but also added that it should take into account the development aspects of environmental questions.

3. A further step in the evolution of the current system was the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements as part of the overall reform of the United Nations. In establishing the Task Force, the Secretary-General noted the formidable challenge facing the international community in attaining "a sustainable equilibrium between economic growth, poverty reduction, social equity and the protection of the Earth's resources, common and life support systems", thus reaffirming the sustainable development context. The Secretary-General also concluded that experience had demonstrated the need for a more systemic approach to policies and programmes through mainstreaming the United Nations commitment to sustainable development.

4. The General Assembly adopted resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the Secretary-General's Task Force recommendations and took action on a number of important institutional measures including the creation of the Environmental Management Group, the creation of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and on support for and enhancing linkages among environmental and environment-related conventions.

5. At its first meeting in Malmö in May 2000, the Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Malmö Declaration, which stated that the "2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable".

II. THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

6. Against the backdrop of the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-first session adopted decision 21/21 on international environmental governance, which established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance, including the financing of UNEP, with a view to presenting a report containing analysis and options to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which is being held in February 2002. In that same decision, the Council also decided that the next Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should undertake an in-depth discussion of that report with a view to providing input on future requirements of international environmental governance in the broader context of multilateral efforts for sustainable development to the preparatory body for the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the Summit.

7. The work of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers is intended to build on recent advances, including the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements and General Assembly resolution 53/242 which supported the establishment of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the Environmental Management Group and made other important recommendations on strengthening the current environmental governance regime.

8. Six meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers have taken place: in New York, on 18 April 2001, in Bonn, on 17 July 2001, in Algiers, on 9 and 10 September 2001, in Montreal, on 30 November to 1 December 2001, in New York, on 25 January 2002 and in Cartagena, on 12 February 2002. All meetings were well attended and witnessed a rich and extensive exchange of views between delegations. The second meeting benefited from having at its disposal the outcome of intersessional consultations between non-governmental and civil society organizations, agencies and experts. The third meeting was presented with suggestions of the President of the Governing Council in the form of "building blocks", which were discussed in two working groups. Working Group I addressed the role and the structure of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and strengthening the role, authority and financial situation of UNEP. Working Group II addressed improved coordination and coherence among multilateral environmental agreements and enhanced coordination across the United Nations system – the role of the Environment Management Group. The meetings also benefited from the valuable inputs of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives and generated a number of ideas that provide a sense of what the expectations are in this process. These ideas were summarized by the chair as follows:

(a) The international environmental governance process encompasses all international environmental efforts and arrangements within the United Nations system, including at the regional level, and is not restricted to UNEP;

(b) The process of strengthening international environmental governance should be evolutionary in nature and be based on implementing General Assembly resolution 53/242. A prudent approach to institutional change is required, with preference given to making better use of existing structures;

(c) The meetings on international environmental governance should lead to comprehensive inputs into the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which should be presented for consideration by it. Decision 10/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which invited the Governing Council to submit its progress report and results to the Preparatory Committee at its second session and the final results to the third session so that they can be fully considered in the preparatory process, clearly establishes this link;

(d) Some issues being considered go beyond the mandate of environment ministries alone, and other branches of Government should be involved in order to enhance national level coordination and to bring environmental considerations into the mainstream of economic and social decision-making at all levels. In this regard, international environmental governance should be viewed within the broader context of sustainable development;

(e) The increasing complexity and impact of trends in environmental degradation require an enhanced capacity for scientific assessment and monitoring and for provision of early warnings to Governments;

(f) The design and implementation of environmental policy at all levels requires a clear link to the sustainable development context as well as greater involvement and engagement of non-governmental organizations, and civil society and the private sector, allowing them a meaningful role in intergovernmental policy-making, and also requires strengthened national frameworks of governance;

(g) The international environmental governance process should take into account the needs and constraints of developing countries on the basis of common but differentiated responsibility;

(h) An essential complement to international cooperative arrangements is the requirement to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to participate actively in policy formulation and implementation. In this regard there is a need to emphasize and support capacity-building and technology transfer, and the role of UNEP in this regard was emphasized;

(i) As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, UNEP should be strengthened. This requires a clear solution to the issue of adequate, stable and predictable financing;

(j) A variety of proposals were considered, including the proposal to establish UNEP as a United Nations specialized agency, which met with differing views;

(k) The Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be placed as the cornerstone of the international institutional structure of international environmental governance;

(l) In addition, UNEP headquarters in Nairobi must be maintained and strengthened as a centre for international meetings on the environment;

(m) The proliferation of institutional arrangements, meetings and agendas, while having the benefit of specialization, may weaken policy coherence and synergy and put further strain on limited resources;

(n) The clustering approach to multilateral environmental agreements holds some promise, and issues relating to the location of secretariats, meeting agendas and also programmatic cooperation between such bodies and with UNEP should be addressed.

9. The conclusions and recommendations emanating from the international environmental governance process and agreed by consensus are contained in the following chapter.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF MINISTERS TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

A. Improved coherence in international environmental policy-making - the role and structure of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

10. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum is constituted by the UNEP Governing Council as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 53/242, which states, in paragraph 6, that the Governing Council would constitute "the forum in the years that it meets in regular session and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council".

11. The international environmental governance process has highlighted the need for a high-level environment policy forum as one of the cornerstones of an effective system of international environmental governance. To this end, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be utilized more effectively both in promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment, in providing broad policy advice and guidance, identifying global environmental priorities, and making recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972. Such an approach should be pursued with full respect for the independent legal status and governance structures of other entities, and would be consistent with the mandate provided to the UNEP Governing Council in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), which states, in paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c), that it should provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system, keep their implementation under review and assess their effectiveness. This approach could be achieved through a series of measures such as those proposed below:

(a) Universal participation of Members States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies in the work of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should be ensured. The question of establishing universal membership for Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum is an important but complex issue that should be considered in the broader context of the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and be reviewed at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum based on the outcome of the Summit;

(b) The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the mandate of UNEP deriving from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) and as further elaborated by Agenda 21. The core elements of the focused mandate of UNEP contained in the Nairobi Declaration highlighted, inter alia, the role of UNEP in the analysis of the state of the global environment, provision of policy advice and catalysing and promoting international cooperation; in further developing its international environmental law aimed at sustainable development, including the development of coherent interlinkages among existing international environmental conventions; in advancing the implementation of agreed international norms and policies and strengthening its role in the coordination of environmental activities in the United Nations system in the field of the environment;

(c) To play its role as the high-level environmental policy forum in the United Nations system, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will:

(i) Keep under review the world environment situation and develop policy responses in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration based on sound science;

(ii) Provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes and make cross-cutting recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), to other bodies while respecting the independent legal status and autonomous governance structures of such entities;

(iii) Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(iv) Strengthen further the coordination and institutional requirements for international environmental policy in view of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in light of the Malmö Declaration;

(d) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should identify ways and means of improving and strengthening its interrelationship with autonomous decision-making bodies, such as conferences of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should promote the meaningful participation of representatives of major groups and non-governmental organizations including the private sector, giving them clear channels for providing Governments with their views, to inform intergovernmental decision-making bodies, within the established rules and modalities of the United Nations system A particular effort to enable civil society organizations from developing countries to participate should be a priority. In line with Governing Council decision 21/19 of 9 February 2001, the relationship between UNEP and its governance structures, as well as among civil society, the private sector and other major groups, should be developed;

(f) Consideration should be given to having the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum meet every other year at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi with meetings in alternate years, if possible, at another United Nations region. This would enhance its interaction with other policy forums in the economic and social fields and assist in the objectives of sustainable development mainstreaming. In addition, the possibility of having back-to-back meetings between the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and multilateral environmental agreements could be explored, with due regard to their legal status and governance structures;

(g) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should institute a regular dialogue, to address the apparent disparity between policy and funding, with multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In this regard the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should play a stronger environmental policy advisory role and strengthen UNEP's efforts to enhance its relationship with GEF through the Action Plan on Complementarity between GEF activities and its programme of work, in line with Governing Council decisions 20/7 of 5 February 1999 and 21/25 of 9 February 2001. Better coordination of decision-making on international environmental policy with decision-making on financing should benefit the funding of environmental aspects of sustainable development;

(h) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should enable ministers to concentrate on policy issues and have the opportunity to promote international cooperation, including making cross-cutting recommendations in the field of the environment, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), take policy decisions, identify priorities on matters within its area of competence, and provide broad direction and advice, as well as oversight of the programme of work and budget of UNEP. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should also regularly review reports on the follow-up of its previous decisions. The agenda could be grouped in segments as follows:

(i) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should take into account emerging environmental trends and should consider issues related to environmental assessment and monitoring, monitoring of its previous decisions, early warning and emerging issues, based on a strengthened scientific capacity of UNEP. Further consideration should be given to strengthening UNEP's scientific base by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change including, inter alia, through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change. The effective participation of developing countries in the work of the panel should be ensured, and the mandate, modalities and composition of any mechanism are to be decided by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(ii) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum could address environmental aspects of one or two selected sectoral issues on an annual basis (such as chemicals, water, oceans), as well as the environmental contribution to major development challenges. In this context relevant sectoral national ministries could be invited to interact with environment ministers to assist in a decision-making process that would aim at bringing environmental considerations into the mainstream of policy discussions and promote sustainable development. Progress in the follow-up of such work should be monitored and reported to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(iii) Taking advantage of its high-level and cross-cutting environmental perspective and its coordination role on environmental matters in the United Nations system, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum could engage in periodic stocktaking and, inter alia, review synergies and linkages undertaken between multilateral environmental agreements, as well as review reports of the Environment Management Group and progress in inter-agency collaboration. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would give policy guidance and advice in the field of the environment by making recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). In this context, UNEP should carry out further scientific analysis in cooperation with secretariats of conventions and their subsidiary bodies and other relevant international scientific bodies, in order to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of conferences of the parties, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 54/217 of 22 December 1999. Officials of United Nations agencies and heads of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats should be invited to participate and interact with ministers at meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(iv) The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum agenda would also include a separate segment providing for the negotiation and adoption of the biennial programme of work and budget of UNEP and review of its implementation. The UNEP

Committee of Permanent Representatives, as a subsidiary body, would continue to play its mandated role in monitoring the implementation of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decisions as well as preparation of its sessions, which would take place in an open and transparent manner, so as to facilitate the participation in substantive preparations of Governments not represented in Nairobi.

B. Strengthening the role and financial situation of UNEP

12. The Nairobi Declaration of 1997, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, established UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. While UNEP is the centrepiece of the international community's efforts to safeguard the environment, its role continues to fall short of the expectations expressed in the Nairobi Declaration primarily because UNEP remains hampered by insufficient and unpredictable resources.

13. Given the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, one way to address discrepancies between commitments and action is to improve the financial situation of UNEP.

14. While commendable efforts have been made by the United Nations to fund some of the administrative costs of UNEP through its regular budget, this funding has been declining in terms of percentage of the total UNEP resources over the past years. Hence it is recommended that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), consideration be given by the United Nations General Assembly to making available from its regular budget the amount which is necessary to cover all administrative and management costs of UNEP. There is also an urgent need to improve the financial situation of UNEP's Environment Fund.

15. Several steps should be taken to address the overall financial situation of UNEP. These include:

(a) More predictable funding from all Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies;

(b) More efficient and effective use of available resources, including the possibility of utilizing external management review mechanisms, taking into account the recommendations of prior management reviews of UNEP;

(c) Strong focus on agreed priorities of UNEP and ongoing review of previous priorities;

(d) Greater mobilization of resources from the private sector and other major groups in accordance with applicable United Nations rules and procedures.

16. All Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, taking into account their economic and social circumstances should contribute financially to UNEP. The financial contributions should be made to the Environment Fund to finance the activities of UNEP to enable it, inter alia, to implement the provisions and achieve the objectives of the Fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). Resources mobilized from major groups should also finance activities for the implementation of the programme of work of the Environment Fund.

17. To broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund, there should be a voluntary indicative scale of contributions, to be developed specifically for UNEP's Environment Fund, taking into account, inter alia, the United Nations scale of assessment as well as the following:

(a) A minimum indicative rate of 0.001 per cent;

(b) A maximum indicative rate of 22 per cent;

(c) A maximum indicative rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(d) Economic and social circumstances of the Member States, in particular those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Provisions to allow for any Member State, in a position to do so, to increase its level of contributions over and above its current level.

18. All contributions to the Fund remain voluntary and each State reserves the right to determine whether or not it wishes to contribute voluntarily to the Fund. However, all Member States, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, will be encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund either on the basis of the indicative scale of contributions, or on the basis of any of the following:

(a) Biennial pledges;

(b) United Nations scale of assessment;

(c) Historical level of contributions;

(d) Any other basis identified by a Member State.

19. The Executive Director of UNEP will notify all Member States, in a timely manner, of the indicative scale of contributions he intends to propose for the biennial budget. All Member States are urged to inform the Executive Director, in a timely manner, whether or not they will use the proposed indicative scale of contributions. The biennial budget will be submitted for consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, prior to the commencement of the financial period that it covers. It will also be circulated to all Member States at least six weeks before the meeting of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at which it will be considered.

20. The Executive Director will notify all Member States that choose the indicative scale of contributions by 15 October of the preceding calendar year, of the amount, in United States currency, of its indicative scale of contributions based on contributions for each year of the biennium. Any Member State which decides not to use the indicative scale of contributions will notify the Executive Director by this date of the basis it intends to use for its contributions, taking into account paragraph 18 above. In either case, each Member State will, prior to 1 January of each year, inform the Executive Director of UNEP of the contribution it intends to make that year and of the projected timing of that contribution. Contributions should be made by 1 January of each calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter, recognizing that there are differences in the budget cycles of Member States. All contributions should be paid in convertible currencies into a bank account identified in the notification of the Executive Director.

21. In addition to the contributions identified in paragraph 20 above, the resources available to UNEP for implementation of its programme of work will also consist of additional voluntary contributions which may be made by Member States or by major groups; other voluntary contributions, including contributions to support the participation of the representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, as well as representatives from countries with economies in transition, in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; the uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods; and miscellaneous income.

22. All Member States are encouraged to make prompt payment of their contributions to the Environment Fund, and a balance should be sought between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions.

23. The Executive Director of UNEP will submit to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its special session in the year 2004, a report on the implementation of paragraphs 15 to 22 above. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will review the effectiveness of the system and take a decision, as appropriate.

24. Progress in implementing the international environmental agenda and creating a stronger link between environmental trends and policy dialogue at the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be increasingly dependent on the availability of information required for decision-making, and in

particular on providing developing countries with the means of implementation. In this regard, higher priority should be given to developing independent and authoritative scientific assessment and monitoring capacity for emerging issues. UNEP is well situated to build on its current strengths in these areas, and could also build a greater capacity to assist developing countries with their needs and requirements in such areas. An enhanced capacity would also require an enhanced financial base. UNEP should continue efforts to attract additional resources and support from partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

25. The UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its twentieth session and the GEF Council at its thirteenth meeting identified the establishment of a UNEP/GEF strategic partnership as an important modality for achieving complementarity. Recently, an initial phase of the UNEP/GEF strategic partnership, in the areas of environmental assessment, global environmental knowledge management and global environmental outreach including the mobilization of the scientific community, has been successfully completed. Strategic partnerships with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are also being undertaken. GEF could fund mutually agreed activities of UNEP which are of relevance to the global environment and the GEF. The existing partnership could focus on the following areas: assessment; scientific information, best practice, and policy analysis; capacity-building and training for the environment; and, country-level coordination for sustainable development. The partnership between UNEP and GEF could be further pursued and should also facilitate the mobilization of additional multilateral and bilateral financial resources for targeted activities consistent with the GEF mandate and global environmental priorities identified by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

C. Improved coordination among and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements

26. The negative impact of the increasing burdens on Governments' ability to participate meaningfully in the proliferating meetings and agendas of multilateral environmental agreements has been underscored as a major constraint to effective international policy-making. While the benefits of being able to concentrate on issue-specific areas are recognized, the perception of a growing potential for overlap in the international environmental agenda makes it difficult to benefit from potential synergies and linkages between the various agreements. In this regard the authority and the autonomy of the governing bodies of the conference of the parties and the accountability of their secretariat to their respective governing bodies should be respected.

27. One approach that has emerged from the debate is that of enhancing the synergies and linkages between multilateral environmental agreements with comparable areas of focus or of a regional character with due regard to their respective mandates. In particular, there is support for enhancing collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats in specific areas where common issues arise, such as current work among the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and including the interim secretariats, as well as biological diversity-related conventions, where efforts are underway to improve national reporting mechanisms of and among these conventions. The initiation of pilot projects should be further pursued. In this regard the study on chemicals- and wastes-related conventions, as well as the joint liaison group that has been convened by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa as approved by their governing bodies, are steps in the right direction. More consideration should be given to the proposed measures suggested by the study. Such synergies and linkages must be promoted in close consultation and with the full agreement of the Conference of the Parties. UNEP should continue, in close cooperation with the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, to enhance such synergies and linkages including on issues related to scientific assessments on matters of common concern.

28. A periodic review of the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements is critical to their success. As an important factor in their effectiveness compliance factors and mechanisms should be supported in conformity with the different regime under each multilateral environmental agreement and including designing multilateral environmental agreements with realistic and achievable goals which could be implemented. States should have regard for the advisory and non-binding UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, once approved by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Capacity-building and, for some multilateral environmental agreements, technology transfer and the provision of financial resources to developing

countries to facilitate compliance, are of great importance for supporting the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements.

29. While taking fully into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conference of the parties, considerable benefits could accrue from a more coordinated approach to areas such as scheduling and periodicity of meetings of the conferences of the parties; reporting; scientific assessment on matters of common concern, capacity-building, transfer of technology; and enhancing the capacities of developing countries before and after the entry into force of legal agreements to implement and review progress on a regular basis by all parties concerned. Biennial meetings as well as shorter duration of conference of the parties should be promoted as well as the need to consider, as far as possible and practical, back-to-back or parallel conference of the parties meetings. The merit of convening meetings at the United Nations headquarters or in other locations will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the conference of the parties involved. In the future, careful consideration should be given to the effectiveness and resource efficiency of establishing additional subsidiary institutions of the conference of the parties, and the co-location of future multilateral environmental agreement secretariats should be encouraged, and where possible in developing countries, with a view of enhancing collaboration and effectiveness. Enhanced coordination at the convention level will also require improved coordination of positions at the national level concerning multilateral environmental agreements. Priority should be given to synergies at the country level, including the provision of means of implementation.

30. Coordination could be fostered by having the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum review the progress made by the conference of the parties of multilateral environmental agreements, with due regard to their respective mandates, in developing synergies in areas where common issues arise.

D. Capacity-building, technology transfer and country-level coordination for the environment pillar of sustainable development

31. Environmental governance should be considered from a multi-level approach – international, regional, subregional and national. The ability of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in the development of international environmental policy and to support those countries in their efforts towards achieving the environmental objectives of sustainable development, and to undertake the requisite implementation of international agreements at the national level, must be strengthened. The need to strengthen the capacity and capability of developing countries, as well as those with economies in transition, remains a major requirement for sustainable development and in particular on issues related to poverty eradication. Such efforts must include all relevant partners and emphasize in particular capacity-building and training, as well as national-level coordination, under leadership of national governments and according to national priorities, of the environmental component of sustainable development. To this end, effective and time-bound measures will be required at international, regional and national levels. In this regard the strengthening of national institutions, including the ministries of environment, in developing countries is an important aspect. Arrangements for the access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies to developing countries should be established and facilitated as they are very important for achieving sustainable development. For progress in this field, steps should be taken expeditiously for the transfer of publicly owned technology.

32. International environmental governance should also cover and support regional and subregional efforts. UNEP, in cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organizations could provide support to the strengthening of regional environmental governance to improve coordination, implementation, capacity-building and technology transfer in support of regional initiatives. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative should be supported as the framework for sustainable development in Africa.

33. In its resolution 53/242, the General Assembly stressed the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, remained an important component of the work of UNEP. This should build on the ongoing capacity-building needs assessment being carried out by GEF through its implementing agencies, including UNEP. A strengthened programme of capacity-building should be clearly defined in the work of UNEP, building on its demonstrated comparative advantage and in the context of pursuing the ongoing strategic

partnership with GEF, respecting its governance structure and in close cooperation with the United Nations organizations and other international organizations active in the area of the environment.

34. In this regard, an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building to developing countries should be developed to improve the effectiveness of capacity-building, and to address the gaps identified by assessments of existing activities and needs, including the ongoing GEF inventory, subject to the availability of funds other than the Environment Fund, taking into account that additional resources need to be made available for this purpose. Such a strategic plan could be implemented through enhanced coordination between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including GEF and UNDP. It could include an increased role for UNEP in country-level capacity delivery in particular through greater collaboration with UNDP. This could be built on the following two components:

(a) Capacity-building and training. The strengthening of the national institutions responsible for environment and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements which will promote the achievement of the objectives of the environmental component of sustainable development. Efforts by UNEP, in response to requests by Governments, to develop local and national capacity in environmental issues and for dissemination of best practices and experiences will build on its role as one of the three implementing agencies of GEF as well as on the expected benefits from the multi-year UNEP/GEF strategic partnership as envisaged in the UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity;

(b) National-level coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development: In addition to the mobilization of domestic resources, developing countries require access to financial, technological and technical resources from the international community, as well as better internal coordination to implement sustainable development strategies. Efforts for environmental improvement at all levels and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements must converge for countries to achieve their national priorities and objectives. Countries are encouraged to promote the coordination of the multiple national frameworks that currently exist in the field of environment at the ministerial level.

35. The strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF should be based on the decisions of their respective governing bodies and involve strengthening the capacity of UNEP to fulfil its role as provided for in the UNEP/GEF Action Plan on Complementarity. UNEP's strength as one of the three GEF implementing agencies should be fostered. It should also take into account the special relationship with UNDP, building on its unique national field capacity, which can contribute to these efforts and also facilitate the mobilization of additional resources with positive results for the environment at both national and global levels.

E. Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system - the role of the Environmental Management Group

36. Considerable emphasis has been placed on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and the role of the Environmental Management Group in this regard. The Environmental Management Group was established following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/242, and includes amongst its members the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. It follows an issue-management approach whereby issue-management groups are established within the organizations concerned in order to address specific issues identified by the Environmental Management Group within an established time frame. Issue-management groups may include institutions from outside the United Nations in their work. Issues selected so far have included the harmonization of biodiversity-related reporting, the development of a system-wide approach to environmental education and training, waste management and chemicals. The Environmental Management Group has only met a few times and it is therefore too early to make an assessment of its functioning. It is clear, however, that there is a need to ensure that the functionality of the Environmental Management Group as envisaged by resolution 53/242 should be realized as soon as possible. It is also clear that:

(a) For the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to effectively play its policy role, it requires an instrument at the inter-agency level to enhance policy coordination across the environmental activities of the United Nations system. The Environmental Management Group is such an instrument and should be charged with reporting annually to the Forum, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/217, as well as on specific issues arising from the work of the United

Nations system in the environmental area on which the Forum could make recommendations on the work of the Environment Management Group;

(b) The Environmental Management Group also provides potential for bringing the environment into the mainstream of relevant activities of the United Nations system. UNEP should join the United Nations Development Group, which brings together the operational agencies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields;

(c) The technical capacities of the specialized agencies and organizations participating in the Environmental Management Group could also be used to support the implementation of a strategic partnership between UNEP and other relevant bodies, including UNDP and GEF, inter alia, for capacity-building.

37. The efficient functioning of the Environmental Management Group requires a clear relation with intergovernmental processes which includes a clearly defined reporting relationship with the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other forums in the United Nations system. It will also require senior-level participation by member institutions, transparency in operations, adequate resources to support its functioning and the possibility of financial support for specific activities, including a coordinated approach to capacity-building.

F. Future perspective

38. The present report takes as its foundation the debate within the international environmental governance process and the recommendations deal with specific weaknesses and opportunities within the current system. Some of the proposals and recommendations in the report could help build incrementally not only towards meeting the needs identified, but also towards the renewed efforts required to be undertaken by all countries pursuant to the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Our efforts are not only underpinned by a sense of protection of the global environment, but by the clear framework set in Malmö in May 2000. The Malmö Ministerial Declaration states that the World Summit on Sustainable Development "should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environment governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world".

39. We must therefore not only ensure a solid foundation on which to build, but also begin to shape a vision for the future of a robust, versatile regime that will allow us to respond quickly and effectively to emerging environmental challenges. In this context it has been recognized that the implementation of Agenda 21, requires improved international governance in all dimensions of sustainable development as a prerequisite for achieving successful protection of the environment, economic growth and social equity. The 2002 Johannesburg Summit will have to address this crucial issue, and our input will be of significant value in the forthcoming debate. The mandate of UNEP, re-enforced at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, has placed it in a unique position to provide not only policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, but also to promote international cooperation in this field, while taking into account development perspectives. By improving and strengthening international environmental governance the decisions taken at the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on 15 February 2002 should be considered as the commencement of a longer-term enterprise to develop international understanding, commitment and resolve towards ensuring the sustainability of the global environment in accordance with the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

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Consideration of the Chairman's paper transmitted from the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, together with other relevant inputs to the preparatory process

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development the report of a meeting of national focal points on improving future national reporting to the Commission, which was held in New York on 12 and 13 February 2002 (see annex).

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Annex

Report on a meeting of national focal points on improving future national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York on 12 and 13 February 2002

I. Introduction

1. A meeting of national focal points on improving future national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York on 12 and 13 February 2002, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, with generous funding support from the Governments of Norway and Finland. Fifty-two countries were invited based on regional representation and continuity in their national reporting, and thirty-six countries were represented at the meeting.[a] The meeting was convened in response to a request made by the Commission in its decision 7/5 to submit proposals on how to improve national reporting and related guidelines, as a part of the preparations for the Summit.

2. The objectives of the meeting were to: (a) assess lessons learned and exchange experience in national reporting over the last 10 years, and identify strengths and weaknesses in past national reporting procedures and approaches; (b) consider ways and means of improving and facilitating future national reporting to the Commission on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and associated goals (the millennium development goals and the outcome of the five-year review held in 1997); (c) formulate proposals for the Summit; and (d) promote networking among national focal points.

3. In response to the request sent from the Commission secretariat to all 149 national focal points, views and suggestions were received from 33 countries, which noted that the reporting process has generally been a useful tool for monitoring national implementation, awareness-raising and internalization of the concept of sustainable development.

4. National reporting on the implementation of Agenda 21 started in 1994 and has gone through a continuous evolution. The number of countries reporting to the Commission has increased in the process, currently totalling 137. Country profiles, which provide a brief overview, issue by issue, of the latest information on the national implementation of Agenda 21, were published for the first time for the five-year review in 1997. The second series of country profiles are being processed as inputs into the 10-year review in 2002, in parallel with the complementary national assessment reports. Since the national information web site was created in 1997, with a direct link to the United Nations web site on sustainable development, the number of daily hits has remained high and continues to increase, now averaging about 600. There is also an increased diversity of users, as reflected in the frequent inquiries the Secretariat receives.

5. A presentation was made by the Commission secretariat on the national reporting process, including an interactive database on national information on sustainable development that is currently under construction. When completed, the database will facilitate direct data entries of information by national focal points, access/queries by users worldwide, sharing of national information, data management by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Division for Sustainable Development, and preparing reports for the future sessions of the Commission.

II. Lessons learned from past reporting

A. Experience in preparing national reports

6. The reporting process has served to strengthen coordination and dialogue between government agencies and between them and the major groups, particularly in developing countries. The preparation of national reports has been a good starting point for countries' preparations for annual Commission sessions.

7. On the other hand, the momentum or political interest to provide information on the part of some Governments has gradually been declining. As

reporting preparations are time-consuming, the focal points questioned how the national information provided is used, and whether or not it has had an impact on Commission deliberations. The time has come to make clear how the reporting process contributes directly to the work of the Commission as well as to the work of countries, as input into their national decision-making.

8. There is a need to strengthen the capacities and the authority of national focal points and to give recognition or prominence to their role in coordinating relevant government agencies' inputs into national reporting. The challenge is how to mainstream reporting into national planning processes or into assessing national implementation of Agenda 21 and/or national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent.

9. Lack of understanding in some countries of the concept of sustainable development, particularly the integration of its three pillars — economic, social and environment — and the sectoral orientations of Governments in general have made integrative approaches to reporting difficult.

10. Some developing countries do not have sufficient computer hardware/software and have extremely limited access to the Internet, nor do they have established government web sites. It would be difficult for those countries to take advantage of a web-enabled database on national information or to network via the Internet with other focal points. Assistance is desperately needed in that regard.

11. The institutional memory aspect of national reporting was also highlighted as being a key in the process of monitoring progress on the national implementation of Agenda 21. Frequent turnover of government officials could be detrimental to consistent and quality reporting without some mechanism for transferring accumulated data, knowledge and experience.

12. The time required to coordinate the national reporting process varies. Some countries need six to eight months to coordinate the multiplicity of inputs from different government agencies concerned, rather than a few weeks. Other countries must translate guidelines into local languages and then translate the input received back into one of the official languages used in the national information web site of the United Nations, all of which takes time. The delay in submission of reports reflects such varying circumstances. The quality of reports has also suffered from time pressure. One solution to the problem would be for the Secretariat to start the entire process much earlier from the Secretariat side.

B. Processing national reports to the Commission

13. A number of challenges still remain; for example, the timing and type of questions formulated in guidelines to assist in the preparation of the national reports will need some adjustments. Guidelines should be more flexible to let countries express specific national interests and concerns, while maintaining certain standard formats. Countries were of the view that receiving the guidelines in the spring or earlier would facilitate meeting the deadline for the submission of national reports to the Secretariat, so the national reports could contribute to the work of the Commission. Such timing would also coincide better with countries' own statistical reporting and availability of human resources.

14. There is also a need to elaborate questions that reflect interconnectivity among the three pillars of sustainable development — environmental, social and economic. It was suggested that detailed and numerous questions be avoided, in particular on budgetary items. Providing quantitative data in the reports would be useful when preparing reports to the Commission; greater use of indicators at the national level would help in that regard.

15. National information on the United Nations sustainable development web site is currently available in English, French or Spanish. Due to financial constraints, it has not been possible to either translate that information into the other languages or to include other official United Nations languages. The goal would be to have all information available in English at a minimum.

16. It is important to strengthen the value added to the Commission national reporting. In that regard, linkages could be established between Commission reporting and convention-based national reporting for the sectoral issues covered under conventions. Commission reporting could then focus on cross-sectoral issues and the integrated aspects of

sectoral/cross-sectoral issues. National reports could also be more widely publicized.

III. Proposals for action

17. Success stories and challenges, both in future reporting to be submitted to the Commission and in national presentations to the high-level segment of the Commission sessions, could be highlighted. It is important that national presentations be reinstated as part of the plenary sessions of the high-level segment of the Commission, where ministers could learn from each other's country experiences. The criteria for selecting success stories should include a focus on integrative approaches and on new partnerships.

18. In order for Commission reporting to have value added and avoid duplication with the other numerous reporting processes with which countries are faced, future Commission reporting should focus on integrative aspects of sectoral issues (e.g., economic/social/environmental aspects or means of implementation related to sectoral issues), as well as cross-sectoral issues. The scientific community could be requested to contribute to developing methodologies for such integrative reporting.

19. The importance of regional approaches to sharing experience and national reports, networking and decision-making on common issues of sustainable development should be underlined. Regional workshops and consultations among national focal points should be held on a regular basis to enhance exchange of country experience and discussions. The Secretariat or the relevant regional commissions are requested to provide such opportunities and assist in facilitating such events.

20. Reporting should include more national impact analysis instead of reporting on accomplishments alone.

21. Many countries need assistance in developing tools for self-assessment at the national level. Feedback between the Commission secretariat and countries should be encouraged in that regard.

22. Since sustainable development indicators are further developed, quantitative data should be used in national reports, wherever relevant. The inclusion of indicators is useful for self-monitoring and assessment at the national level, as well as to track national trends in implementation of Agenda 21. Indicators reflected in national reporting should only serve self-monitoring and assessment at the national level, and should not be used for international comparison.

23. It should be made clear how the reporting contributes to the Commission and how it could be developed in order for it to better serve the global process.

24. If another multi-year programme of work is adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat should anticipate issues scheduled and make reporting requests as early as possible. The periodicity of reporting should coincide with the work programme of the Commission and the deadlines for submission should be adjusted accordingly in order to enhance the impact of decision-making by the Commission. Possible regular updating of reports should be reviewed so as to avoid information becoming outdated.

25. The reporting process, starting with formulating and sending out guidelines, should begin much earlier than in the past — in spring of the previous year. Ample time should be given for report preparations at the national level so as to allow for participatory approaches, better coordination of inputs and high-quality content.

26. Guidelines should include fewer, more clustered and integrative questions. Guidelines should be made simpler and streamlined so as to avoid repeating questions and duplicating efforts on the part of national focal points. Guidelines should invite Governments to indicate forward-looking views as to their intentions for the future and actions that need to be undertaken at various levels.

27. Guidelines should be (customized) or formulated in such a way so as to be flexible in allowing countries to reflect special national circumstances, concerns and initiatives at national, regional and local levels, while keeping the standardized format.

28. In some countries, the role of national focal points should be enhanced. Consideration could be given to designating non-environmental government agencies that play a central role in national planning and coordination and have the necessary capacity and resources as focal points.

29. There is a strong need to support capacity-building for national focal points in some countries in order to provide them with the necessary tools to

coordinate national reporting activities. The Commission secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme/capacity 21, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and/or other donors agencies are requested to consider providing technical and financial assistance in this area as part of their national-based programmes.

30. Relevant United Nations agencies are urged to develop training modules for awareness-raising of sustainable development for use, as necessary, by government officials involved in national reporting. It is important not only to maintain the institutional memory of the focal point but also to transfer know-how in reporting to successors through changes in Governments.

31. In some countries, the role of national councils or national commissions on sustainable development in supporting national focal points could be enhanced, including providing more support to the focal points in their role of coordinating inputs for reporting.

32. Regular networking between the Secretariat and national focal points and among focal points through e-mail and informal newsletters and other means of communication should be established.

33. The capacity of the Commission secretariat needs to be enhanced for better data management and processing of future reporting. Resources should be made available to the Secretariat so that national information becomes available in English for all countries, as a minimum.

34. Past submissions of national reports should be maintained by the Commission secretariat for future analysis of the national trends over time.

35. Synergies and interconnections with other reporting requirements should be improved. Better web links and coordination should be established among relevant United Nations system web sites. Governments should be invited to include national policy-making documents and hyperlinks to government sites in their electronic reporting. United Nations bodies are encouraged to make use of national reports, wherever relevant.

Notes

* The meeting was originally scheduled for 13 and 14 September 2001; due to the tragic events of 11 September, it had to be postponed and could not be held in time for the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Third session
25 March-5 April 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Consideration of the Chairman's paper transmitted from the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, together with relevant inputs to the preparatory process

Letter dated 14 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

I have the honour to inform you that the Third High-Level Forum on the Cooperation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Interregional Platform of Cooperation was held in Caracas on 19 and 20 February 2002. The Forum adopted the Declaration of Caracas on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (see annex).

The Forum being held some months before the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the heads of State and Government and ministers who attended it mandated its Chairman, H.E. Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to submit the said Declaration to the Summit and its preparatory process for consideration.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Summit and its preparatory process.

(*Signed*) Milos **Alcalay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/CONF.199/PC/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

[Original: Spanish]

Third High-Level Forum on the Co-operation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Interregional Platform of Co-operation

Declaration of Caracas on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

We, Heads of State and Government and Ministers, meeting in Caracas, on 19 and 20 February 2002, for the Third High Level Forum on the co-operation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), at the invitation of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the full support of the Secretariat of the UNCCD,

Considering the intrinsic relationship between land degradation and poverty which affects millions of human beings living in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, permanently affecting their livelihood,

Considering that combating poverty is an indispensable condition for the achievement of sustainable development in the framework of equity, progress and social justice,

Considering the persistent trends of desertification worldwide, particularly in fragile ecosystems in developing countries, with the subsequent soil losses which occur annually and lead to irreversible land degradation, and where the capacity to adjust to and overcome these challenges is objectively limited,

Considering that land tenure and ownership are the determining factors for implementation of the Convention, particularly as it relates to the fight against poverty,

Considering that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which came into effect in 1996, is a legally binding instrument derived from the 1992 Earth Summit, to tackle the problem of combating poverty and promoting sustainable development in fragile ecosystems,

Reaffirming the importance to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002, of the resolutions adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conferences of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Nairobi (Kenya) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in October 2001, respectively, where the problem of desertification and drought was also discussed,

Recognising the value of the financial and political context of the International Conference on Financing Development, to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the WSSD, to be held in Johannesburg, which are suitable frameworks to strengthen political will and mobilise more financial resources for the implementation of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean Interregional Platform of Co-operation,

Declare that:

1. We reaffirm the guiding principles of the concept of sustainable development as defined in Agenda 21, particularly as it refers to the indivisibility of threats caused by major international imbalances that challenge the very basis and sustainability of developing countries, particularly the poorest among them, which are the most vulnerable.

2. It is necessary to foster an ethic that encourages the building of a multipolar new world order, based on the respect for national sovereignty, on the identity and cultural diversity of peoples, solidarity and promotion of social and economic rights. This order should recognise the value of vital processes and harmony between society and nature as vital elements to achieving sustainable development.

3. Formal and informal environmental education should be considered an essential tool in the strategy of sustainable development.

4. Combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought must be acknowledged and given a preferential and priority status in the international arena, particularly among developed countries.

5. The Convention is a suitable instrument to promote South-South co-operation policies and actions in combating poverty, guaranteeing food security and social development, while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources.

6. We share the deep conviction that South-South co-operation constitutes an effective framework for the implementation of the Convention and strongly believe in its potential to share experiences and put to use the wealth of knowledge they contain. We call upon the financial bilateral and multilateral sources and mechanisms to implement this fundamental concept and provide an appropriate response to the long-term expectations of the South in terms of enhanced global solidarity to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, particularly in countries which are in the front line, severely affected in different regions.

7. We promote policies and strategies that allow the integration of private sector investments to contribute to halting degradation of the environment and natural resources.

8. The financial support and the transfer of appropriate technologies received from the international community are insufficient for a problem of global dimensions that affects nearly one fifth of humanity and exacerbates other major problems of economic, social and environmental importance, putting social and political stability at risk.

9. We reaffirm that desertification and drought must be addressed with substantial financial means, which shall include new and additional financial resources as well as the transfer of appropriate technologies.

10. It is imperative to provide the international community with a predictable multilateral funding mechanism to ensure the timely implementation of the Convention, and we reaffirm the importance of identifying the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the Convention's primary financial mechanism and call upon the WSSD to invite the GEF Assembly, to be held in Beijing next October, to take a decision accordingly.

11. It is indispensable to conceive sustainable development, in accordance with its three dimensions, namely economic growth, social development and environment protection. Since the Convention constitutes a major instrument that addresses simultaneously those three dimensions, we urge the international community, particularly at the forthcoming G8 Summit, to take place next June in Canada, to give due priority to the implementation of the Convention.

12. Actions must be consolidated to effectively salvage, develop, and apply traditional knowledge and technologies to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought, as well as to develop early warning systems and identify benchmarks and indicators.

13. It is of capital importance to involve civil society in this process, particularly local actors, community-based organisations and territorial collectivities, while taking into full consideration gender balance issues and the spearhead role played by youth in promoting sustainable development at all levels, and we reaffirm the pioneering role of the Convention in emphasising the principle of participatory approach.

14. The Chairman of the Third High-Level Forum on the Co-operation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean shall submit this Declaration to the WSSD and its preparatory process for consideration.

Caracas – Venezuela, February 20, 2002